

## SOCIAL WELFARE

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### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

The year 1979 was proclaimed by the United Nations' General Assembly as the International Year of the Child (I.Y.C.) to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the U.N. Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which declared that each and every child has the right to:

- (1) Develop physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually in a normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity;
- (2) a name and nationality;
- (3) adequate nutrition, housing, recreation, and medical care;
- (4) special treatment, education, and care if handicapped;
- (5) love and understanding and wherever possible to grow up in the care and under the responsibility of parents;
- (6) receive free education to enable development of individual judgement and a sense of moral and social responsibility. The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with parents;
- (7) be among the first to receive protection and relief;
- (8) be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty, and exploitation and will not be permitted to engage in any occupation which would prejudice his physical, mental, or moral development;
- (9) be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, and in full consciousness that talents should be devoted to the service of mankind; and
- (10) enjoy these rights regardless of race, colour, sex, language, political opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

The Victorian Government, in its 1978-79 budget, provided \$100,000 to finance the I.Y.C. operations, and allocated Ministerial responsibility for co-ordinating government and non-government activities.

An I.Y.C. State Committee was established under the provisions of the Charter of the International Year of the Child. Early in 1979, the Committee published a booklet that identified four major focus areas for government departments, voluntary organisations, local communities, local councils, and schools to consider in organising special activities and projects to mark the International Year of the Child. The four focus areas as defined in the booklet were:

- (1) The quality of life of children in their families;
- (2) the quality of life of children in their communities;
- (3) futures for the children of the world; and
- (4) futures for children who are disadvantaged.

## COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**Commonwealth Department of Social Security***Introduction*

The Department is the Commonwealth Government's main administering authority for social welfare. Programmes administered by the Department range from direct income transfer payments to individuals, through grants to organisations, to direct welfare service provision.

The Department of Social Security continued its programme of decentralisation by opening new offices at North Fitzroy, Swan Hill, Ringwood, and Cheltenham, and establishing a special unit to serve the Glen Waverley area in Melbourne until suitable accommodation in this area is available. At the same time, the range of services offered at existing offices has been upgraded. At May 1980, of the 34 regional offices operating throughout Victoria, 31 had the capacity to handle applications for all benefits, allowances, and pensions. Only three offices — Heidelberg, Horsham, and Mildura are not yet fully decentralised. Social workers and welfare officers have been located in every regional office as part of the department's efforts to improve services to clients.

*Transfer payments to individual citizens*

The Social Services Act provides for direct payment to individuals in the form of age, invalid, wife's, and widow's pensions, supporting parents benefit, family allowance, funeral benefit, unemployment, sickness, and special benefits, orphan's pension, handicapped child's allowance, and sheltered employment allowance.

Each of the payments has a set of eligibility requirements which differ and are based upon criteria such as period of residence in Australia, age, income from labour, and other sources.

Since July 1976, all pensions and benefits, with the exception of invalid pensions paid to a person under age pension age (65 years for men and 60 years for women) and wife's pension paid to the wife of an invalid pensioner where both are under age pension age, have been treated as taxable income.

Allowances paid in connection with pension, i.e., additional pension for children, guardian's or mother's allowance, and supplementary assistance are not taxable income. However, payments for children made in connection with unemployment, sickness, and special benefits are included as the recipients' taxable income and supplementary allowance paid in connection with sickness benefit is taxable income. Family allowances payments are not taxable income.

The Department has set up an appeals procedure for persons dissatisfied with decisions made by the Department concerning pensions, benefits, or allowances. Such persons can ask a Review Officer who will normally be located in their local office to make an immediate reappraisal of the disputed decision. If the person is still dissatisfied an appeal may be made to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. A client may lodge an appeal direct with the Tribunal without reference to the Review Officer, if he or she wishes.

The Tribunal makes recommendations to the Department on whether such appeals against departmental decisions should be allowed. The Tribunal commenced operating in Victoria in February 1975 and consists of eight part-time members, who are not public servants, and a full-time member seconded from the Department. Normally, two part-time members and the full-time member consider each case. During 1978-79, the Tribunal finalised 2,332 appeals from clients. Of the finalised appeals, 529 were conceded by the Department before referral to the Tribunal and 285 after a Tribunal hearing. The Tribunal recommended that 1,518 appeals be dismissed.

Since 1 April 1980, where a recommendation of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal has not been accepted by the Department, there has been a right of appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has far-reaching powers and may affirm or vary a decision, set aside a decision, and substitute its own or order the department to reconsider a decision.

*Age pensions*

Age pensions, or old-age pensions as they were called from 1909 to 1947, were the first of the income security benefits to be introduced on an Australia-wide basis. The rates of

pension and the qualifying conditions have changed over the years and additional benefits have become payable but, fundamentally, the provisions have not altered markedly. Since 1973, age pensions for persons aged 75 years and over have been granted free of the means test. In 1975, the means test was abolished for persons aged 70 years and over who receive the basic pension. Pensions are adjusted half-yearly in May and November according to movements in the Consumer Price Index.

Since November 1978, pensioners over 70 years of age have received a basic rate (\$102.90 per fortnight single, and \$85.80 per fortnight married). To be eligible for any increase, they must satisfy the income test. From November 1976, an income only test has replaced the means test, so the value of property owned by applicants is no longer taken into account.

On 30 June 1979, there were 1,322,793 age pensioners in Australia (the Victorian total being 356,933 of whom 67 per cent were women). The main reasons for the preponderance of women are that they may be granted age pensions five years earlier than men (i.e., at years of age as against 65 years of age) and that they generally live longer than men. There were 179,800 age pensioners in Australia (13.9 per cent of the total age pensioners) receiving supplementary assistance. The proportion of persons receiving age pensions in the population of pensionable aged persons has increased over time, i.e., at the 1911 Census the percentage was 32 per cent and by the 1976 Census it had reached 79 per cent.

Some persons of pensionable age are receiving invalid or widow's pensions, or service pensions from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs (see pages 657-9).

#### *Invalid pensions*

The original Commonwealth pensions legislation contained provisions for invalid as well as age pensions and, although some of the qualifying conditions necessarily differ, the two schemes have many common characteristics. As with age pensions, the conditions have changed over the years, but there have always been the fundamental requirements connected with age, incapacity, residence, and income.

The wife of an age or invalid pensioner may receive a pension of an equivalent rate to her husband if she is residing with him and does not qualify for a pension in her own right. However, if the husband receives an age pension free of the income test, the wife's pension may be less as it remains subject to the income test.

On 30 June 1979, there were 219,843 persons in Australia receiving invalid pensions, of whom 149,759 were men. There were also 97,300 invalid pensioners in Australia (44.3 per cent of total invalid pensioners) receiving supplementary assistance.

#### *Wife's pension*

The wife of an age or invalid pensioner may receive a pension if she is residing with him and does not qualify for a pension in her own right. If the husband receives an age pension free of the income test, the wife's pension remains subject to the income test. The pension is assessed as taxable income if the husband's pension is taxable.

At 30 June 1979, there were 7,965 pensions being paid to wives of age pensioners and 14,655 pensions being paid to wives of invalid pensioners in Victoria. Relative figures for Australia were 30,317 and 56,153, respectively.

#### *Widow's pensions*

For widow's pensions purposes the term "widow" may include, in certain circumstances, a woman whose husband has deserted her for at least six months, a divorcee, a woman whose husband has been imprisoned for at least six months, a woman whose husband is in a mental hospital, and a woman who was the dependant of a man for at least three years immediately before his death. The income test applies as for the age pension. On 30 June 1979, there were 160,747 widow pensioners in Australia.

#### *Concessions for pensioners*

In addition to income payments, there are a number of concessions and services available to the recipients of pensions already listed who qualify under a separate income test.

Such fringe benefits are provided by organisations other than the Department of Social Security and include the pensioner health benefits service, hearing aids for pensioners,

municipal rate rebates, water and sewerage rate rebates, telephone rental concessions, motor insurance and registration rebates, and transport concessions on Commonwealth Government trains, Victorian Government trains, trams, and buses, and on buses operated by private companies. A reciprocal arrangement with the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia permits Victorian pensioners to obtain transport concessions when visiting these States or Territory.

#### *Funeral benefits*

Where a pensioner who is eligible for fringe benefits is responsible for the funeral expenses of another pensioner, a recipient of a wife's pension, a person receiving a tuberculosis allowance who is otherwise qualified for a pension, or his children of his non-pensioner spouse, that pensioner may qualify for a funeral benefit up to a maximum of \$40 provided the deceased was also eligible for fringe benefits.

Where a person other than a pensioner eligible for fringe benefits is responsible for the funeral expenses of an age or invalid pensioner, or a person receiving a tuberculosis allowance, a funeral benefit up to a maximum of \$20 may be granted, provided the deceased was eligible for fringe benefits.

Expenditure on funeral benefits during 1978-79 was \$1.4m for Australia, and \$374,000 for Victoria.

#### *Unemployment, sickness, and special benefits*

Legislation for these benefits was enacted in 1944 and the programme came into operation the following year. Unemployment and sickness benefits are essentially short-term benefits available to persons who are unemployed or temporarily incapacitated for work. An important feature of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefit Act was the provision it made for granting what was termed "special benefit". Special benefit was designed to provide for persons who could not qualify for those benefits or who were ineligible for age, invalid, widow's, or service pensions. It was to be granted to a person who, because of age, physical, or mental disability, or domestic or other circumstances, was unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants.

An income test and a residency qualification are applied to applicants for these benefits. The one year's residence qualification is waived where the Department is satisfied that the claimant intends to remain in Australia permanently. The waiting period of seven days for unemployment and sickness benefits changed in 1969, so that it is now only necessary to be served once in any period of thirteen weeks.

From March 1973, the rates of pensions and benefits were brought into parity and this resulted in the abolition of the long-term rate of sickness benefit. From 13 January 1975 for unemployment benefits and from 24 May 1975 for sickness benefits, benefit payments were made one week in advance rather than one week in arrears as previously. Payments were altered to cover fortnightly instalments on a trial basis from 23 March 1976. The unemployment benefit has normally been paid fortnightly in arrears from November 1977. The number of unemployment benefits granted varies from one year to another according to the general employment situation and to dislocation in industry caused by industrial stoppages and structural factors. During 1978-79, a total of 810,500 unemployment benefits were granted in Australia, and at 30 June 1979 there were 312,000 persons receiving benefits. Comparable figures for Victoria were 190,023 and 70,288, respectively.

Altogether 133,000 grants of sickness benefits were made in Australia during 1978-79 (28,244 in Victoria), and there were 32,400 persons on benefit at the end of this period (8,248 in Victoria). Total expenditure in Australia on unemployment, sickness, and special benefits in 1978-79 was \$1,059.8m, expenditure in Victoria during the same period being \$243.5m.

#### *State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act*

The State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act came into operation on 1 January 1968. It provides for assistance to be given by the Commonwealth Government to the States in respect of aid for mothers with children when the mothers are not eligible for benefits under the Social Services Act. Broadly, these include deserted wives during the first six

months of desertion, wives during the first six months of the husband's imprisonment, deserted *de facto* wives, and unmarried mothers who are ineligible for the Commonwealth Government supporting parents' benefit. During 1978-79, payments to the States under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act totalled \$26.1m. The Victorian total was \$4.9m.

#### *Special benefit for supporting parents*

From 1 January 1980, the Victorian Government withdrew from the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act under which a supporting parent, who was ineligible for pensions or benefit, was paid from the first six months after the birth of the child, separation, or desertion.

As there is no specific pension or benefit available under the Social Services Act, supporting parents in Victoria are now being paid special benefit for the first six months. As this is less than the amount paid for widow's pension, the Victorian Government makes up the difference. After six months, subject to residential qualifications, the parent may be able to receive supporting parent's benefit or widow's pension.

#### *Supporting parent's benefits*

A supporting mother's benefit was introduced on 3 July 1973. It provides assistance to mothers who were not eligible for the widow's pension. These included unmarried mothers, deserted *de facto* wives, women whose *de facto* husbands were in prison, and other wives separated from their husbands for various reasons. These mothers qualified for a supporting mother's benefit six months after the date of the event which gives rise to eligibility, e.g., the birth of a child or separation. On 10 November 1977, a supporting parents benefit was introduced and this enabled benefits to be paid to a supporting father under similar conditions as applied to supporting mothers. A supporting father includes a widower, a divorcee, a separated husband or *de facto* husband, a husband or *de facto* husband of a prisoner, a husband of a mental hospital patient, and an unmarried father. Entitlement to this form of assistance is subject to an income test and other qualifications.

During 1978-79, payments under the supporting parent's benefit totalled \$226.7m, the Victorian total being \$45.8m.

#### *Additional allowances*

Pensioners and beneficiaries may be eligible for up to \$7.50 a week for each dependent child under 16 years or full-time students under 25 years. Recipients of age, invalid, and widow's pension, and supporting parent's benefits may be eligible for up to \$6.00 a week guardian's or mother's allowance if they are lone parents. Up to \$5.00 a week supplementary assistance may be paid to pensioners, recipients of supporting parents' benefits, and sickness beneficiaries (after six weeks), if they pay rent or board or board and lodging and have little or no income apart from pension or benefit.

#### *Maternity allowances*

Since their introduction in 1912, maternity allowances were paid to mothers residing in Australia upon the birth of a child. The amount of the allowance depended upon the number of other children in the mother's custody, care, and control. The maternity allowance was additional to any Commonwealth Government health benefits. Payment of this allowance ceased on 1 November 1978. The number of allowances paid annually in Australia increased steadily from the end of the Second World War, reflecting the influence of the immigration programme and the increased number of births, until a peak of 272,006 allowances was reached in 1971-72. In 1978-79, maternity allowances were paid to 229,240 claimants.

#### *Family allowances*

Family allowances are a continuing payment made to each person (usually the mother) who has the care of one or more children under 16 years of age, or one or more qualified full-time students from 16 to 25 years of age. The rate of allowance for each child depends upon the child's position in the family in relation to the other eligible children in the person's custody, care, and control.

The payment of the allowance changed from four-weekly payments to monthly payments from 15 May 1979, the payment periods being on the 15th of the month and ending on the 14th of the next month. The monthly payments are; first child \$15.20,

second child \$21.70, third child \$26.00, fourth child \$26.00, fifth and subsequent children \$30.35 each.

The total number of families receiving the allowance for children under 16 years of age in Australia and abroad on 30 June 1979 was 2,060,076 and the number of children in such families was 4,220,006. There were also 10,967 endowed children and students in institutions. Expenditure for all endowed children for 1978-79 was \$974.9m.

#### *Double orphans pensions*

An orphan's pension of \$47.70 per month is payable to any person having the custody, care, and control of a child under 16 years of age or a full-time student child under 25 years of age if both parents (including adoptive parents of the child) are dead or if one parent is dead and the whereabouts of the other parent is unknown. An orphan's pension is free of any means test and is payable in addition to family allowances.

#### *Handicapped child's allowance*

A handicapped child's allowance of \$15 a week is payable to parents or guardians of a severely physically or mentally handicapped child who is being cared for in the family home. The allowance is designed specifically to assist parents and guardians who have a handicapped child under 16 years of age or a full-time student under 25 years of age requiring constant attention and who prefer to provide this attention at home rather than place the child in an institution. A handicapped child's allowance in respect of a severely handicapped child is free of any means test and is payable in addition to family allowances. The allowance is not paid for full-time students receiving invalid pensions.

From 1 November 1977, this allowance was extended to parents or guardians of a substantially handicapped child whose handicap does not meet the medical criteria of a severely handicapped child. The allowance is related to the additional cost incurred due to the child's handicap and is subject to an income test. The rate payable is up to \$65 per month.

#### *Reciprocal agreements*

The Social Services Act provides for the Commonwealth Government to enter into reciprocal agreements with the government of any other country in matters concerning pensions and benefits under the Act. Arrangements of this kind are operating with New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The general basis of these agreements is that residence in New Zealand or Britain may be treated as residence in Australia. In return, Australians who go to those countries for permanent residence receive concessions enabling them to qualify for equivalent benefits there.

#### *Portability of pensions*

Age and invalid pensioners and their wives, widow pensioners, and persons receiving a supporting parents benefit may continue to receive their pensions overseas, whether their absence is temporary or permanent. The granting of age, invalid, and widow's pensions for persons living overseas, who are in special need of financial assistance and who satisfy certain requirements, was introduced in March 1974.

#### *Grants to organisations to provide welfare services*

The Commonwealth Government provides financial assistance to other levels of government and eligible non-profit organisations (e.g., religious, ethnic, or ex-servicemen organisations). These organisations provide welfare services for special groups such as migrants, handicapped persons, aged persons, children, and homeless persons. The various programmes are: (1) aged or disabled persons homes; (2) personal care subsidy; (3) delivered meals subsidy; (4) States Grants (Home Care) Act; (5) handicapped persons assistance; (6) sheltered employment allowances; (7) homeless persons assistance; (8) welfare rights; (9) child care; (10) community information centres; and (11) financial assistance for community welfare agencies in need.

#### *Aged or disabled persons homes*

The Aged Persons Homes Act was introduced in 1954 to assist eligible charitable and benevolent organisations, or organisations of a similar nature, with Commonwealth capital grants towards the cost of providing self-contained and hostel-type accommodation for aged persons.

Grants were originally made on a \$1 for \$1 basis but were increased to \$2 for \$1 in 1957. In 1967, local governing bodies were included as eligible organisations and grants became available for nursing accommodation. In April 1974, a separate subsidy for land became available. The Act was amended to the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act from 3 December 1974 to include disabled persons and the ratio of subsidy was increased to \$4 for \$1.

From 20 May 1976, the ratio of subsidy reverted to \$2 for \$1, but at the same time the maximum subsidy limits were increased, and on 1 April 1979 were established as \$12,100 per single self-contained unit, hostel, or nursing bed. An important requirement for a grant of subsidy is that the conditions of the home approach as nearly as possible normal domestic life for the residents.

The Commonwealth Government in 1976 announced that it proposed to allocate \$225m Australia-wide over the following three years for capital grants under the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act and the Aged Persons Hostels Act, grants being approved on a priority needs basis. Subsequently, a fourth year was added and in December 1979 a further three-year programme was announced timed to commence at the beginning of the 1980-81 financial year.

The Aged Persons Hostels Act is explained on page 710 of the *Victorian Year Book* 1976. Organisations which established an entitlement under this Act have had their entitlement preserved.

#### *Personal care subsidy*

An amending Act passed during 1969 provided for payment of a personal care subsidy to approved homes. Homes where residents are provided with all meals and where staff are employed to assist those who need help with bathing, dressing, personal laundry, and the cleaning of their rooms, and those who need help with medication, may be approved for subsidy. A staff member is to be available at all times to give assistance in the case of emergency. The amount of subsidy paid is \$15 a week payable at four-weekly intervals on the basis of the number of persons residing in approved accommodation who are: (1) 80 years of age and over, and (2) under 80 years of age but receiving personal care services because they are permanently unable to perform those tasks themselves. At 30 June 1979, 656 premises had been approved for subsidy in Australia, and the subsidy paid for the twelve months was \$13.16m. In Victoria, the number of homes was 161 and the subsidy paid was \$3.5m.

#### *Delivered meals subsidy*

The Delivered Meals Subsidy Act assists organisations to establish, maintain, expand, and improve approved "meals-on-wheels" services.

The subsidy is paid on the basis of 25 cents for every meal provided by an eligible organisation and is paid quarterly. Also, an additional subsidy of 5 cents per meal was introduced in October 1972 for those eligible "meals-on-wheels" services which undertook to provide an approved Vitamin C supplement for each delivered meal.

Non-profit religious, charitable, benevolent, and welfare bodies not controlled by the Commonwealth or State Governments may apply for the subsidy. Local government bodies may also apply. At 30 June 1979, the number of approved organisations in Australia was 633, the number of meals served was 7,661,874, and the amounts granted totalled \$2.28m. The Victorian totals were 186 approved organisations, 2,557,709 meals, and the amounts granted totalled \$745,000.

#### *States Grants (Home Care) Act*

This Act, introduced in 1969, provides financial assistance for States developing home care services mainly for the aged, and for the States developing senior citizens centres. It also enables the Commonwealth Government to pay half the salary of a welfare officer co-ordinating home care services run by, or in association with, senior citizens centres. During 1978-79, payments of \$8.6m were made to the States under the Act, of which \$4.4m was allocated to Victoria.

#### *Handicapped persons assistance*

The Handicapped Persons Assistance Act came into effect in December 1974 following the repeal of the *Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act* 1967 and the *Handicapped*

*Children (Assistance) Act 1970.* The former provisions of the repealed legislation were incorporated in the new Act which at the same time was broadened in scope to permit a wider range of assistance than had previously been provided. The Act now provides assistance to eligible organisations for the following prescribed services relating to handicapped or disabled persons: training, activity therapy, sheltered employment, residential accommodation, holiday accommodation as well as recreational facilities, and rehabilitation facilities which are auxiliary to those and other major services.

In respect of each of these prescribed services, \$4 for \$1 subsidies may be paid towards the capital cost of approved projects, the cost of approved building maintenance, the rental of approved premises, and the cost of approved equipment. Salary subsidies of up to 50 per cent (or 100 per cent within the first two years after an organisation has commenced to provide a prescribed service) may also be paid.

Additional payments that may be made are a handicapped children's benefit of \$5.00 per child for each day that accommodation is provided by eligible organisations to a handicapped child, and training fees of \$500 for each disabled person who completes twelve months normal employment after six months sheltered employment.

#### *Sheltered employment allowances*

These allowances were introduced in 1967 under the since repealed Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act, and are payable, in lieu of invalid pensions, to qualified disabled persons engaged in approved sheltered employment, or to those likely to become qualified if not provided with sheltered employment; the income test is the same as for invalid pensions. An income test free special incentive allowance of \$5 per week is paid to persons receiving sheltered employment allowances, in lieu of supplementary assistance.

#### *Homeless persons assistance*

The Homeless Persons Assistance Act, which came into operation on 13 December 1974, makes provision for eligible organisations to be assisted in the provision of welfare services to homeless men or women. The Act has established an Advisory Committee in each State, and helped to develop a co-ordinated programme of assistance in close association with all those involved in the welfare of the homeless population.

The Act provides organisations with an opportunity to improve and upgrade existing facilities, to replace them, or to establish new facilities. Grants of up to 100 per cent may be made to meet the cost of the rental. Fixtures, furniture, furnishings, and equipment purchased for use in a homeless persons centre may also qualify for a grant.

Subsidies of up to 50 per cent of the salary of a social welfare worker employed at a homeless persons centre may be paid and, in special circumstances, to more than one such worker at a centre. Where an eligible organisation provides accommodation and food at a homeless persons centre, or meals for non-resident homeless persons, a subsidy may be paid of 75 cents per person per day so accommodated, and 25 cents per meal served or meal ticket issued.

#### *Welfare Rights Programme*

Funding was originally provided to five organisations in Victoria for the appointment of a welfare rights officer to work with organisations associated with disadvantaged minority groups within the community. Two of these organisations are Parents Without Partners, and the Council for the Single Mother and her Child who now receive funding under the Childrens Services Programme at the increased rate of \$13,500 per year. Payment beyond 30 June 1980 will be subject to a further review.

From 1 July 1979, responsibility for the three ethnic agencies (Comitario Assistenza Italiani, Australian Turkish Cultural Association, and Australian Greek Welfare Society) was transferred to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

#### *Child care*

In 1978-79, the Commonwealth Government, through the Department of Social Security's Office of Child Care, has provided \$65.03m for a wide range of children's services throughout Australia. These services include pre-schools, centre-based full-day care, family day care, and occasional and emergency care out of school hours.



### *Commonwealth Government Rehabilitation Service*

Eligibility for rehabilitation assistance at Commonwealth expense is confined to persons suffering from a physical or mental disability which appears likely to continue for a period of not less than 26 weeks from the date of commencement and is, or is likely to be a substantial handicap to:

- (1) The person undertaking employment, whether full-time, part-time, or sheltered employment;
- (2) the person undertaking or resuming household duties; or
- (3) the person leading an independent or semi-independent life in his own home.

Subject to these conditions, rehabilitation is available to all persons in the broad working age group, males 16-65 years and females 16-60 years and also to adolescents between the ages of 14-16 years who without treatment or training would be likely to become qualified to receive invalid pension on attaining the age of 16 years.

While undergoing treatment, persons continue to be paid whatever pension or benefit they were receiving prior to commencement of rehabilitation. Any artificial aids or appliances considered necessary are supplied without cost to the person. If training is required, training allowance is paid for the whole period of training.

During 1978-79, 1,003 persons were accepted for rehabilitation in Victoria, while 399 were placed in employment in Victoria. Expenditure on rehabilitation in Victoria during the year totalled \$4.7m.

In addition to the four Rehabilitation Centres in Melbourne, "Coonac" at Toorak, Glen Waverley Rehabilitation Centre at Glen Waverley, Work Preparation Centre at South Yarra, and Work Adjustment Centre at Northcote, Rehabilitation Units are conducted at Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong. A rehabilitation service is also available at Morwell where a full rehabilitation unit was to be established during 1979-80.

Where training is necessary to fit a disabled person for employment, use is made of any suitable agency in the community. Business colleges and technical schools are used to a considerable extent and a great deal of training is provided in a work situation "on the job". Where this latter method is used it is expected that the trainee will be employed after satisfactorily undergoing a period of training. Duration of training varies from a few weeks to several years. At any particular time approximately 200 persons are undergoing rehabilitation training in Victoria.

### *Professional welfare services*

Professional welfare staff employed in the Victorian Office totalled 76 at the end of June 1979, compared with a total of 17 employed in 1972. During 1979-80, particular attention was given to integrating professional welfare staff in specialised operational areas throughout the Department. Their skills have been utilised at State, area, and regional levels in a range of functions including planning, administration, monitoring, evaluation, community liaison, training, supervision, and direct personal service provision to clients.

With the rapid decentralisation of departmental services during 1979-80, emphasis was placed on locating welfare staff in every regional office and developing their role as an element of integrated regional management teams. Apart from casework, they monitor the working of the public inquiry facilities, and help public contact staff gain a more sensitive appreciation of the needs of persons who seek departmental assistance.

During the course of 1979-80, regional social workers and welfare officers spent approximately 82 per cent of their time in the provision of direct personal services to individuals coming to the Department for income support or social or vocational rehabilitation. These personal services were provided to clients through casework, information, advice, and referral procedures.

The Department introduced new administrative procedures early in 1979 to minimise, wherever possible, referrals of departmental clients to voluntary agencies for emergency assistance. The social work staff were closely involved in the implementation of these new procedures within each regional office, and also for ensuring that voluntary agencies were advised of the new arrangements.

In addition, social workers and welfare officers have been involved in ongoing work with a variety of community groups and organisations including the Victorian Council of Social Services, Regional Emergency Services, Department of Community Welfare

Services, Citizens Advisory Bureaux, church agencies and a range of other welfare agencies, and welfare co-ordinating organisations. Frequently, welfare staff represent the Department at the Regional Family and Community Services Consultative Committees. Staff have also participated in a number of projects, pilot studies, and surveys, and provided systematic feedback on the effects of departmental programmes and policies. These research and monitoring activities included emergency relief practices and assessing the language needs of migrants, and the needs of lone parents who became eligible for Department of Social Security income support in lieu of State payments from the beginning of 1980.

#### *Migrants and Aboriginals*

During 1979-80, the Department set up a Migrant Services Unit comprising an executive officer and a project officer. The overall responsibilities of the Unit are to ensure that:

- (1) The Department has the necessary capabilities, in respect of its own services, to meet the special needs of migrants from non-English speaking origins;
- (2) the Department makes effective use of these capabilities; and
- (3) the effectiveness of all departmental services to migrants are monitored through consultation with ethnic communities.

In addition, a special liaison officer scheme has been developed to ensure that migrants and Aboriginals have equal access to the services and benefits provided by the Department.

Within this scheme, five ethnic liaison officers have been appointed to service members of the Greek, Yugoslav, Turkish, and Vietnamese communities. These officers are located in various regional offices. In general, their role is to assist individual clients to obtain their entitlements, to advise their respective ethnic communities and ethnic welfare personnel about the services and programmes of this department, and to consult with members of their communities about the needs of migrants in relation to Department of Social Security provisions.

#### *Aboriginal liaison*

During 1979-80, many initiatives were taken in respect to services to the Aboriginal community. Positions were created for five Aboriginal liaison staff and these positions were filled in close consultation with Aboriginal organisations and community leaders. This close consultation with the Aboriginal community has in fact been a cornerstone of the Department's approach. Processes have been set up to ensure that the Department is in close contact with the needs and aspirations of Aboriginals in Victoria, and to ensure critical feedback on the effectiveness of departmental services.

The role of Aboriginal liaison staff, in simple terms, been to ensure appropriate access of Aboriginal persons and organisations to the Department's benefits and pensions well as subsidy areas. The effectiveness of these officers is illustrated by the fact that applications for funding under the Children's Services Program have increased from \$90,000 in 1978-79 to over \$1m in 1979-80.

#### *Information services*

Through the Information Services Section, the Department of Social Security attempts to:

- (1) Ensure that eligible individuals are aware of their rights and entitlements to the various Department of Social Security payments and services; and
- (2) provide information to agencies and other government departments concerning payments and services available.

Activities include provision of access material and aids to agencies and welfare workers through a comprehensive mailing list, arranging for departmental speakers to present talks to various groups on social security matters, submitting regular articles for publication in suburban and country newspapers, in co-operation with other government departments and agencies developing more effective information systems, providing a liaison service for various sections within the Department to publicise new developments, answering inquiries from the public on departmental programmes, and conducting research on welfare information dissemination practices.

*Consultative arrangements*

The Department maintains considerable involvement in a wide range of consultative mechanisms operating at the State level, and attempts to facilitate consultations which enable the community to participate in welfare programmes, e.g., Victorian Social Security Consultative Committee which was appointed by the Minister for Social Security in July 1979. The Committee acts as a specialist consultative group to the Department of Social Security by advising the Department of the effectiveness of its services in Victoria, and by linking to the National Consultative Council on Social Welfare on broader policy issues.

The Victorian Social Security Consultative Committee also functions as a sub-committee of the Victorian Consultative Committee on Social Development and thus has the opportunity for the sharing of a wide range of resources.

The Department is an active participant, and foundation member of the Victorian Consultative Committee on Social Development. The Department is a member of the Steering Committee and all present sub-committees which include Accommodation; Employment; Ethnic Affairs; Family Policy; Information; and Victorian Social Security Consultative Committee.

*Statistical summary*

## VICTORIA — SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES

Programme	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Transfer payments to individual citizens—					
Age pensions—					
Number of pensioners	300,839	316,950	329,467	342,565	356,933
Amount paid (\$'000) (a)	432,555	576,850	670,118	786,832	861,285
Invalid pensions—					
Number of pensioners	38,257	42,044	47,698	49,379	54,305
Amount paid (\$'000) (a)	68,190	90,906	114,621	138,545	162,256
Widow's pensions—					
Number of pensioners	34,056	36,664	39,125	41,312	43,928
Amount paid (\$'000)	66,474	90,491	102,341	119,255	133,634
Sheltered employment allowances—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	1,230	2,667	3,212	3,778
Funeral benefits—					
Number of claims granted	14,184	13,227	12,910	13,126	12,127
Amount paid (\$'000)	417	395	383	389	374
Unemployment benefits—					
Number of benefits granted	175,596	187,393	163,677	216,928	190,023
Amount paid (\$'000)	66,361	128,634	131,419	179,035	204,848
Sickness benefits—					
Number of benefits granted	31,569	31,623	28,464	30,047	28,244
Amount paid (\$'000)	18,193	25,976	28,950	30,608	29,443
Special benefits—					
Number of benefits granted (b)	3,470	7,350	7,817	8,684	8,454
Amount paid (\$'000) (b)	2,560	4,032	5,292	7,119	9,236
States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	1,256	2,016	2,824	4,003	4,918
Supporting parent's benefit—					
Number of beneficiaries	7,511	9,275	10,716	12,414	12,731
Amount paid (\$'000)	15,786	25,678	32,123	39,635	45,791
Maternity allowances—					
Number of allowances granted	62,955	62,197	58,228	61,068	(c)26,137
Amount paid (\$'000)	1,978	1,953	1,808	1,903	(c) 851
Family allowances—					
Number of families	n.a.	n.a.	560,261	564,776	599,175
Number of approved institutions	128	128	128	128	128
Number of children and students in—					
Families	1,186,411	1,181,692	1,178,318	1,179,289	1,155,540
Institutions	4,755	4,408	3,738	3,077	3,026
Total amount paid (\$'000)	62,885	73,912	282,527	286,695	267,323
Double orphan's pensions—					
Number of guardians	368	453	497	438	566
Number of institutions	15	15	15	15	18
Number of orphans	687	810	913	835	794
Amount paid (\$'000)	291	415	495	401	416

VICTORIA — SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES—*continued*

Programme	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Handicapped child's allowances—					
Number of claims granted	4,118	1,748	1,317	1,480	1,376
Amount paid (\$'000)	248	2,155	3,833	4,828	4,937
Grants to organisations to produce welfare services—					
Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act—					
Number of capital grants	45	38	17	41	26
Amount of grants (\$'000)	7,743	1,064	5,656	8,664	7,037
Personal Care Subsidy Act—					
Subsidies paid (\$'000)	2,283	2,514	2,900	3,449	3,496
Delivered Meals Subsidy Act—					
Expenditure (\$'000)	480	585	540	730	745
States Grants (Home Care) Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	642	3,647	3,882	4,464	4,408
Handicapped Persons Assistance Act—					
Number of grants approved	274	476	469	r 395	552
Amount paid (\$'000)	1,741	2,248	5,244	r 8,845	11,849
Handicapped Persons Assistance Act—					
Children's Benefit					
Amount paid (\$'000)	196	270	329	358	368
Homeless Persons Assistance Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	142	491	383	449	295
Welfare services provision—					
Commonwealth Government Rehabilitation Scheme—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	3,487	3,994	4,142	4,248	4,500

(a) Amount comprises payment for pensioners and pensioners in benevolent homes, allowances/pensions to wives, guardian's allowance, additional pension in respect of children, and supplementary assistance.

(b) Excludes special benefits to migrants in accommodation centres.

(c) Payment of this allowance ceased on 1 November 1978.

**Further references:** *History of social services, Victorian Year Book 1962*, pp. 281-95; *Sheltered employment assistance, 1969*, pp. 561-3

## Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs

### *Introduction*

The Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs is responsible, subject to the control of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, for the administration of the Repatriation Act and associated legislation designed for the care and welfare of veterans, and the dependants of those who have died or are incapacitated as a result of their service. The main responsibilities of the Department are to pay pensions and to provide medical treatment. Other functions include the provision of assistance towards the education and training of children of certain veterans, the provision of gift cars for some severely disabled veterans, the payment of funeral grants for specified classes of veterans and their dependants, and various other forms of assistance. Since 5 October 1976, the Department has also been responsible for the administration of the Defence Service Homes Scheme and the Office of Australian War Graves.

### *Disability and dependants pensions*

Disability pensions, introduced under the *War Pensions Act 1914*, are intended to provide compensation for veterans who have suffered incapacity related to their service. Disability pensions for incapacity are paid in accordance with the assessed degree of disablement suffered by the veterans and are not subject to any income test or to income tax. The term "disablement" includes such factors as physical or mental incapacity, pain and discomfort, a lowered standard of health, and inability to participate in normal recreations.

Dependants' pensions are payable to the wife of a disability pensioner and for each child under 16 years of age or a student child who is not receiving a Commonwealth Government education living allowance or an invalid pension. The rate payable varies according to the veteran's assessed degree of incapacity.

If a veteran's death is accepted as being service-related, or if, at the time of his death, he was receiving the special rate of disability pension, or the equivalent rate payable to certain double amputees, a war widow's (or defence widow's) pension is paid to his widow, and pensions are also paid for each child under 16 years of age or receiving full-time education regardless of age. Eligible war widows (and defence widows) may also receive an additional payment known as a domestic allowance. There were 448,301 disability pensions payable to veterans, miscellaneous personnel, and their dependants at 30 June 1979, and the annual expenditure including allowances was \$415,329,176. Of these pensions, 113,819 were payable in Victoria and the annual expenditure was \$106,374,177.

#### *Service pensions*

Service pensions were introduced in 1936. Unlike a disability pension, a service pension is not a compensatory pension and was introduced to provide for the intangible and indefinable effects of war service. It is payable to a veteran who has served in a theatre of war, and has either attained 60 years of age (55 years of age in the case of a female veteran) or who is permanently unemployable. It may also be payable to a veteran of the Boer War. Certain veterans who had theatre of war service in the armed forces of the British Commonwealth or allied countries in wars or war-like conflicts in which Australian forces were engaged and who have resided in Australia for ten years may also qualify for a service pension.

Before November 1976, service pensions were subject to a means test, which, from that date, was replaced by a test on income only. The wife of a service pensioner may also be eligible if she is not in receipt of a pension, subject to an income test from the Commonwealth Department of Social Security. The same income test is applied to service pensions as to social security age or invalid pensions. Most service pensioners are also eligible to receive a wide range of medical and other fringe benefits for disabilities not related to their service. Eligibility for these benefits is not extended to service pensioners who served only in the armed forces of other British Commonwealth or allied countries. At 30 June 1979, 131,792 veterans and 80,622 wives were receiving a service pension. Of these, 4,249 veterans and 7,559 wives/widows were receiving a service pension in respect of service in the armed forces of other British Commonwealth countries.

In Victoria, at 30 June 1979, 33,007 veterans and 20,175 wives/widows were in receipt of a service pension.

#### *Medical care*

Medical treatment is provided for repatriation beneficiaries for all disabilities which have been accepted as related to service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is also provided for disabilities not related to service. A description of the types of service and institutions operated by the Department is set out on pages 630-1.

#### *Education and training*

With the assistance of a voluntary Education Board in each State, the Department administers the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme introduced in 1921. The object of this scheme is to encourage and assist eligible children to acquire standards of education compatible with their aptitudes and abilities and to prepare them for suitable vocations in life. Assistance is provided under the scheme for the children of veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related, or who died from causes not service-related, but who were receiving, at the time of death, a pension at or equivalent to the special rate, or who, as a result of service, are blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated.

#### *Re-establishment benefits for former regular servicemen*

Re-establishment loans may be granted, subject to certain conditions, to former regular servicemen who need financial assistance for their re-establishment in civil life. The maximum amounts of the loans are: business and professional—\$5,000, and agricultural—\$10,000.

#### *General assistance*

The Department also provides various other forms of assistance for certain classes of veterans and their eligible dependants. These benefits include gift cars and driving devices for some seriously disabled veterans, funeral benefits, immediate assistance, and recreation transport allowances.

*Statistical summary*

## VICTORIA—DISABILITY AND SERVICE PENSIONS (a)

Year	Veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans	Total pensions in effect	Amount paid during year
					\$'000
DISABILITY PENSIONS					
1974-75	52,113	67,251	15,865	135,229	83,837
1975-76	50,422	63,904	15,525	129,851	89,249
1976-77	48,826	60,491	15,169	124,486	98,156
1977-78	46,965	56,238	15,116	118,319	108,827
1978-79	45,410	53,683	14,726	113,819	106,374
SERVICE PENSIONS					
1974-75	21,593	9,244	738	31,575	40,181
1975-76	24,165	11,418	715	36,298	55,141
1976-77	27,196	14,234	688	42,118	72,127
1977-78	30,052	17,599	(b)	47,651	93,631
1978-79	33,007	20,175	(b)	53,182	108,343

(a) Includes Far East Strategic Reserve, Special Overseas Service, Seamen's War Pensions, Act of Grace Pensions, and serving members—for disability pension only. Also includes Commonwealth Forces Service Pensions.

(b) Included in figure for dependants of incapacitated veterans.

## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

## Department of Community Welfare Services

*Introduction**Legislation*

In December 1978, the Victorian Parliament passed a Bill to amend the *Social Welfare Act 1970*. During 1979, most of the provisions of the new Act were proclaimed, although some key sections await proclamation. The *Community Services Act 1978* changed the name of the Social Welfare Department to the Department of Community Welfare Services. This name change took effect in January 1979. The major provisions of the new Act are described below.

The new Act explicitly established community development functions for the Department of Community Welfare Services. Under the new Act, the functions of the Department with respect to community welfare and development and welfare services are:

- (1) To facilitate the development of welfare services and the administration of welfare programmes at the regional and local level, in co-operation and conjunction with government departments, voluntary organisations, and community groups;
- (2) to ensure that welfare services are fully accessible to all persons, and that information concerning all services is readily available, by co-operating with government departments, municipalities, voluntary organisations, and community groups;
- (3) to promote co-ordination of welfare services planning and delivery through co-operating with providers and consumers of welfare services, and to encourage voluntary participation, self-help, and consumer involvement in the planning, development, and carrying out of welfare services; and
- (4) to assist communities to identify and to meet the continuing and emerging needs of families and individuals within their communities.

The new Act also proposes the establishment of a Child Development and Family Services Council to supersede the Family Welfare Advisory Council; the establishment of a Correctional Services Advisory Council to replace the Prisons Advisory Council; and the establishment of an independent Appeals Tribunal. The functions of the new Advisory Councils are:

*Child Development and Family Services Council*

The functions of the new Council are:

- (1) At the request of any of the Ministers, to advise on policy and programme matters relating to community, family, youth, child care, and development, and in particular, the

policies to be adopted and programme requirements and practices, but not including any matters otherwise referred to the Consultative Council on Maternal and Child Health, established pursuant to the provisions of the *Health Commission Act 1977*;

(2) subject to the approval of any of the Ministers, to initiate, promote, or carry out investigations relating to community, family, youth, child care, and development and welfare matters, and to make recommendations arising out of those investigations;

(3) to invite and receive information from State and Federal bodies, municipalities, non-government organisations, and community groups and others in the community, family, youth, child care, and development fields, and generally keep informed of developments the Council considers relevant to the work of the Council;

(4) subject to the approval of any of the Ministers, to initiate meetings, seminars, and discussion documents in relation to child development and family services;

(5) to advise the Minister on principles relating to licensing, contracts, and registration; and

(6) at the request of any of the Ministers, to establish, convene, or co-ordinate sub-committees, working parties, or task forces which facilitate the undertaking of the functions of the Council.

#### *Correctional Services Advisory Council*

The functions of the new Council are:

(1) To advise the Ministers concerning the policies to be adopted and the programmes to be undertaken from time to time in relation to the custody, care, education, discipline, training, and treatment of persons held on remand or sentenced to imprisonment or to detention in a youth training centre by the Supreme Court, the County Court, or a Magistrates' Court;

(2) to advise the Ministers concerning the policies to be adopted and programmes to be undertaken from time to time in relation to community correctional programmes;

(3) to consult with government and non-government organisations and community groups on policies relating to correctional services in the community;

(4) to seek and acquire information from government and non-government organisations and community groups on correctional services in the community; and

(5) at the request of any of the Ministers, to initiate meetings, seminars, and discussion documents in relation to correctional services.

The new Act also legislates for the mandatory annual review of wardships and children in care. The provisions relating to the Advisory Councils' mandatory annual review of wardships and children in care, and the establishment of an independent Appeals Tribunal were expected to be proclaimed early in 1980.

### *White Paper on Social Welfare*

#### *Community consultation*

On 27 April 1977, the Minister for Social Welfare announced the introduction of the Family and Community Services Programme and foreshadowed a White Paper on Social Welfare in Victoria.

On 23 November 1977, the Minister reported to the Victorian Parliament in his Second Reading Speech on the Community Welfare Services Bill that the Victorian Consultative Committee on Social Development (V.C.C.S.D.) had been requested to undertake consultations into the future of social welfare in Victoria and that a Departmental working party would be established to examine the service systems of the Department.

These consultations made it possible for Victorians to express their views to an extent not previously attempted. It gave them for the first time an opportunity to say clearly how they thought social welfare should be planned in the future. The views of more than 5,000 individuals and 500 organisations were obtained. Nearly 200 government and local government submissions were received and opinion surveys undertaken. Detailed consultations were conducted by most Regional Consultative Councils and organisations such as the Children's Welfare Association, the Council for the Ageing, the Youth Council of Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Council of Social Service, and most member organisations of the V.C.C.S.D.

Following this comprehensive process of consultation the Minister presented the White Paper *The Future of Social Welfare in Victoria* to the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 1978, outlining the Victorian Government's policy on social welfare.

#### *White Paper*

The White Paper presents the Victorian Government's view of the directions social welfare will take in the next decade. It indicates what specific decisions have been taken and provides a framework in which social policies will be developed and refined into the 1980s.

The major government policies outlined in the White Paper were based on the recognition of the need for greater co-ordination of government services at Federal and State levels; high quality information; more effective delivery of services at a local level; and an overall policy framework providing for broadly based consultation and advisory mechanisms.

The White Paper makes a commitment to the transfer of resources into community-based programmes and the importance of voluntary organisations and community development is emphasised. The significance of the correctional services function is stressed, together with the need to achieve United Nations minimum standards for prisons.

A White Paper Project Team was established towards the end of February 1979 for a three year period to monitor and maintain an appropriate impetus to the development and implementation of White Paper recommendations and Community Welfare Services Act.

#### *Community Welfare Services Act*

The White Paper should be seen in conjunction with a revised Community Welfare Service Bill which was introduced into the Victorian Parliament on 16 November 1978. The original Bill had been introduced into Parliament twelve months earlier to allow for community consideration and comment. The Bill translated into legislation many recommendations from the White Paper Consultation.

Most sections of the Act have now been proclaimed including the Department's change of title to Department of Community Welfare Services. The development of some sections of the Act are dependent upon approval of additional resources and development of operational guidelines.

Major provisions of the new legislation include:

- (1) Establishment of a Department of Community Welfare Services;
- (2) formation of a Child Development and Family Services Council (to supersede the Family Welfare Advisory Council);
- (3) establishment of Correctional Services Council (to replace the Prisons Advisory Council);
- (4) explicit establishment of a Social Planning and Community Development functions for the Department;
- (5) mandatory annual review of all wardships;
- (6) establishment of an independent Appeals Tribunal; and
- (7) new provisions for child maltreatment.

#### *Family and Adolescent Services Division*

##### *Reception and Youth Training Centre Section*

Children and young persons may be admitted or committed to the care of the Department through an order from the Children's Court, on the grounds that they are in need of care and protection, are uncontrolled, or have broken the law. Children may also be placed in the care of the Department through an application to the Director-General by a parent or other custodian. The Director-General must be satisfied that admission to care will be in the best interests of the child.

The Department maintains five youth training centres—Turana, Langi Kal Kal, and Malmsbury for boys; Winlaton for girls; and Acheron, which functions as a holiday camp. There is one other youth training centre for boys at Bayswater. The Bayswater centre is directed by the Salvation Army. Young persons entering Turana and Winlaton youth training centres are classified by social workers according to their individual problems, and programmes are planned for them to meet their particular needs.



The programmes carried out at youth training centres aim to help these young persons to adjust to community living by encouraging social growth, and by providing opportunities for education and training, geared towards individual levels of ability, maturity, and interest. Special efforts are made to maintain and strengthen family relationships—visits by parents are encouraged and regular weekend and special leave may be granted.

#### *Youth Welfare Services Section*

The Department operates two hostels, situated at Sunshine and Ivanhoe, to accommodate young persons coming from Turana and Winlaton. Residents at the hostels are encouraged to become self-reliant, and to find suitable private accommodation when they leave. There are also twenty-four voluntary hostels which work in close co-operation with the Department.

The Department maintains four community-based youth welfare services, and finances another service at Doveton, which is operated by a voluntary agency. The Hawthorn Youth Welfare Service provides short-term non-residential care for boys between the ages of 14 years and 17 years. The boys participate in group discussions and undertake community service projects. They are helped individually through counselling, and in a variety of other ways, aimed at helping them to make a more satisfactory adjustment to community living. The Brunswick Youth Welfare Service is similar to the Hawthorn Service in its basic aims, but it also provides some residential accommodation, and caters for boys who experience problems at home, at school, or in their employment. The staff at the Brunswick Service work closely with parents, teachers, and employers. The Windsor Youth Welfare Service is for girls, and it also includes a residential section. The Western Youth Welfare Service at Ascot Vale caters for young persons from the west and north-west regions of the Melbourne metropolitan area. It conducts special education programmes for the younger and older age groups, including an education and employment programme for young persons experiencing problems at school and work and has a separate residential section for boys and girls if required.

The Grassmere Youth Welfare Service at Doveton operates on a similar principle to the youth welfare services operated by the Department, but is directed by a voluntary agency. The Carlton Project is another youth welfare service which is supported by the Department and directed by a community group. The services to be provided by the Carlton Project include a youth legal service, an employment service, and an emergency accommodation service. An after-school programme is already operating at the Project. The Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Family and Adolescent Services supervises two hostels for Aboriginal boys and girls, and a Youth Support Unit in the inner urban region of Melbourne.

#### *Youth Accommodation Services Programme*

The joint Commonwealth/State Youth Accommodation Services Programme commenced early in 1980 and provides funding for the provision of accommodation and associated services to homeless young persons. In some cases this means the support of existing services being provided by voluntary agencies, and in others, the initiation of new services. It is anticipated that the programme will provide a range of services including accommodation in refuge-type facilities as well as a range of supported lodging schemes, information and referral services, and other counselling and personal support services as required. At present one such programme, the Melbourne City Mission's "Stopover" is in operation.

#### *Adoptions Section*

The Adoptions Section of the Department works in close co-operation with eleven private adoption agencies in selecting suitable adoptive parents, and arranging placements for the limited number of babies now becoming available for adoption. The Department arranges the adoption of children in its care where adoption eligibility has been established, and of children whose parents or guardian nominate the Director-General to arrange the adoption. The Department has set up a specialised adoption unit to arrange adoptions for children with special needs, including older and handicapped children. The Departmental Adoptions Section and the Child Care Service of the Uniting Church

(formerly the Child Care Service of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches) are the only two adoption agencies in Victoria involved in arranging and monitoring inter-country adoptions.

#### *Residential Child Care Section*

Children are usually received into one of the four Departmental reception centres—Allambie and Baltara in Melbourne; Warrawee in Ballarat; and Mirallee in Mildura. Normally, the children are placed away from these centres after a stay ranging from a few weeks to a few months. They may either move on to a departmental or voluntary children's home, or a foster home, or be home-released under supervision to their parents or relatives.

The Department operates six children's homes of its own, each capable of caring for about thirty children, and sixty family group homes in which four to eight children are cared for by cottage parents in a family-type situation. Departmental children's homes take account of the individual needs of each child, and attempt to avoid an institutional-type atmosphere. Regional centre social workers review the progress of children in care in consultation with such persons as child care staff, youth officers, nurses, doctors, and teachers, and maintain contact with children released to their own homes. The continuing interest of parents in their children's progress is welcomed and encouraged by the Department.

Voluntary agencies operating approved children's homes caring for wards of State receive Victorian Government funding for 90 per cent of residential care workers' salaries, in addition to a per capita allocation for each child.

#### *Regional Services Division*

##### *Introduction*

The regionalisation programme aims to make the services of the Department more accessible to the community; to encourage and support the development of programmes suited to local needs; and to improve co-operation and liaison with other government and private welfare agencies at the regional level.

The programme has been implemented progressively over the last seven years, and is now almost completed. Regional centres have been opened in the ten rural regions, and a network of sub-offices and visiting services to outlying towns and shires has been established to supplement the work of the regional centres. Eight regional centres are in operation in the Melbourne metropolitan area, serving the north-western suburbs, the north-eastern suburbs, the outer-eastern suburbs, the western suburbs, the southern suburbs, the inner urban region, and Western Port. The inner eastern regional centre which was the last established, was opened late in 1979.

Regional centres are administering an increasing number of the services provided by the Department, as the following notes indicate.

##### *Financial assistance*

The Department may make family assistance payments to single-parent families or family supportive grants to families experiencing hardship. The aim of the payments is to help keep families together when a shortage of money might lead them to break up.

##### *Family counselling and information services*

Services are provided for persons who wish to talk about, and seek information on, matters affecting their families. Advice may be given on accommodation services, the availability of financial assistance, and other services relevant to the needs of families and individuals.

##### *Foster care*

The administration of the foster care programme was transferred to the Regional Services Division in May 1976, with the aim of developing regionally-based foster care programmes throughout Victoria. The regional administration of foster care makes it possible for children to live in areas with which they are familiar, and facilitates continued contact with natural parents. The Department also conducts a conference of approved fostering agencies.

### *Probation*

Probation in Victoria is an alternative to custodial care. When an offender is admitted to probation, which may be for a period of between one year and five years for adults, and up to three years, but not extending beyond their eighteenth birthday, for children, the offender consents to comply with certain conditions. These conditions are: to report to the probation service within 48 hours of appearing in court; not to break the law; to carry out the lawful instructions of the probation officer; to report and receive visits as directed by the probation officer; and to notify the probation officer within 48 hours of any change of address or change of employment during the period of probation. Special conditions may be added by the court, for example, directing abstinence from liquor, attendance at a medical or psychiatric clinic, or avoidance of specified company or places. A Children's Court can also make supervision orders which may include conditions to be observed by parents or persons with whom the child is living.

The probation order states that the probationer will be "supervised by a probation officer", and it is the first responsibility of the officer to ensure that the conditions of the order are adhered to. At the same time, every effort is made to assist the probationer to develop personal resources and any other capabilities which may enable the probationer to lead a more useful and productive life in society. Contact between the probationer and the probation officer varies in its intensity. Initially, it tends to be more frequent, and then gradually decreases. The seriousness of the offence committed, the person's adjustment and progress, and the length of the probation period all affect the degree of supervision.

A breach of the conditions of probation is reported by the supervising probation officer, and a decision is made as to whether or not any action will be taken. If a probationer is taken to court, it may result in a fine, a bond, admission to a new period of probation, or a sentence of imprisonment or detention in a youth training centre. On the other hand, the court may decide to take no action.

### *Parole*

Victoria has a Youth Parole Board and an Adult Parole Board. These Boards have the power to release on parole those persons who have been sentenced to imprisonment or detention, but who are eligible to be released on parole before the full sentence or detention is served. The Youth Parole Board can release on parole young persons undergoing detention in a youth training centre at any time during the term of the sentence. The Adult Parole Board, however, may not consider the release of a prisoner until the minimum term of the sentence, less remissions, has been served.

The main concern of the Parole Boards is whether the person is a good risk on parole. The Boards base their decisions on the reports they receive from the parole services, and the youth welfare and prison authorities. Medical and psychiatric reports are also submitted when necessary. The person's criminal history is also taken into account. The Boards may either grant parole, defer consideration to a later date, or deny parole. Parole Board decisions cannot be appealed against legally but, at the request of the prisoner or the prisoner's relatives, can be reviewed.

In the main, parole supervision procedures are similar to those of probation. On the day of release, the parolee is handed a parole order which contains conditions similar to those on probation orders. The parole officer is required to ensure that the conditions of parole are complied with, to assist the parolee, and where appropriate, the family of the parolee.

### *Other regional services*

Other supportive services being developed by regional centres, in conjunction with local community agencies, include financial counselling, family aides, family support units, emergency foster care, and emergency accommodation facilities. Regional centres are responsible for the supervision of residential care facilities, school attendance, regulation of the employment of children under 15 years of age in street trading or entertainment, the protection of children under 5 years of age who are placed away from home by their parents, after-care supervision of wards of State on home release to parents or relatives, and the provision of support for children and young persons in trouble with the law, involving the preparation of pre-sentence and post-sentence court reports.

The co-ordination and oversight of Departmental programmes and services at the regional level is maintained by Head Office co-ordinators of family substitute care (foster care), protective services, financial assistance, correctional field services, family supportive services, and family and community services programmes.

#### *Special facilities*

Some special facilities are provided as part of the activities of the Inner Urban Regional Centre. The Liaison and Referral Unit, located at Head Office, functions as a central reference point for all facilities and services in relation to case-planning inquiries and disputes, with access to all central records systems and the records of all facilities and services. As well, staff provide a comprehensive pre-sentence advisory service to the Melbourne Children's Court, and to families of children appearing before the Court, as well as liaising with the Victoria Police Force in all matters regarding children appearing before the Court.

The Special Supervision Unit is responsible for supervision of parolees who represent a severe risk to themselves or the community, or who demonstrate complex problems, independently of legal designation. The Unit provides a pre-parole service to the metropolitan prisons and youth training centres, and co-operates with regional centres in all matters associated with pre-parole and parolees.

#### *Family and Community Services Programme*

The Family and Community Services (FACS) Programme is a process combining three basic resources—funding, staff, and consultative structures—with the overall objective of developing services which preserve and strengthen individual and family life, promote personal growth, and help persons to play a significant role in their local communities. The three basic operating principles underlying the FACS Programme are:

- (1) The encouragement of voluntary activity, and the recognition that the work of self-help groups is the most efficient means of deploying welfare resources;
- (2) the fostering of local community projects is a significant preventive strategy in a system of services for families and communities; and
- (3) the provision of appropriate services is best achieved by involving those affected by the programme.

Regional consultative committees operate in the eighteen designated regions of Victoria, comprising representatives from government departments, local councils, welfare agencies, self-help groups, and elected citizens. In addition to recommending regional priorities for projects seeking funds from the FACS Programme, regional consultative committees undertake consultation within their respective regions, to determine welfare needs and service deficiencies.

Funds are made available by the Victorian Government under the FACS Programme for local initiative grants, community service grants, federating agencies grants, and information and co-ordination services. Three FACS Programme staff members are located at each regional centre to assist regional consultative committees and local communities to plan, design, and develop localised services within a regional network of family and community services.

#### *Correctional Services Division*

##### *Prisons*

All persons detained in Victorian prisons are controlled and supervised by the Department of Community Welfare Services. The management of prisoners involves a wide range of operations, and a variety of specialised skills. Qualified staff are employed to carry out the Department's correctional services programmes and welfare services. The maintenance of security is another important and obvious feature of the Department's responsibility in the correctional field.

In Victoria, ten prisons are maintained for men, and one for women. Differences in the levels of security at the prisons, and in the types of programmes provided, make it possible to match prisoners to the prison which is most appropriate for their management and rehabilitation.

Pentridge Prison, situated in the Melbourne suburb of Coburg, is the largest prison in Victoria, and holds approximately half the number of male prisoners in the State. The

Prisoners' Classification Centre is also located at Pentridge. Prisoners serving sentences of at least one year (or six months, if they are under 21 years of age), and those eligible for parole, are interviewed by the Classification Committee, which endeavours to place them in the most appropriate institution. Prisoners can be employed in a wide variety of prison industries, and industry products are supplied to outside customers as well as to government departments. Pentridge industries include the manufacture of number-plates for motor vehicles, brush and broom-making, a bakery, the tailoring of jackets and jeans, printing, a laundry, and an engineering shop for maintenance work.

Pentridge is divided into four separate sub-prisons (Southern, Central, Northern, and Jika Jika High Security Unit) which share general administration and supply services. Each sub-prison is autonomous, and is administered by a Governor who is responsible to the prison Superintendent. The Southern Prison comprises three Divisions: (1) D Division holds trial and remand cases; (2) G Division is a psychiatric and medical clinic; and (3) F Division holds short-term prisoners convicted of minor offences. The Central Prison comprises two Divisions: (1) E Division provides dormitory accommodation for medium-term prisoners; and (2) B Division is a high-security division holding long-term prisoners. The Northern Prison comprises three Divisions: (1) J Division caters specifically for offenders who are under 21 years of age; (2) A Division holds mainly first offenders who are serving longer terms, and offers a wide range of diversified activities; and (3) H Division holds prisoners who are considered to be a security risk, or who have been sent for disciplinary or safety reasons from other Divisions or prisons.

The Jika Jika High Security Unit is currently under construction and consists of six independent Units which collectively will accommodate fifty-four maximum security prisoners. Prisoners will be able to participate in such industries as silk-screen printing, tailoring, printing, and brush making.

The new Pentridge Hospital which is approaching completion will initially accommodate twenty prisoner in-patients with a potential capacity of sixty, in the future. The two storey building, geographically located in the Central Prison, has been fitted with the most modern equipment available and will be staffed by both medical and custodial personnel.

Ararat Prison is the largest prison in Victoria outside Melbourne. It is a medium-security prison, in which most prisoners are housed in four-bed cells. Industries conducted at the prison include the manufacture of tubular steel products, signwriting, mat-making, silk-screen printing, forestry, and market gardening. Beechworth is a medium-security prison of the old walled type. Prisoners at Beechworth take part in a variety of community service projects. The prison also has a carpenter's shop, a farm, and a large commercial pine plantation. Bendigo Prison is also an old walled medium-security prison. Prisoners there take part in community service projects, and the prison has a well-equipped sheetmetal work industry. Castlemaine Prison operates as a medium-security prison for offenders with sentences ranging from medium to short-term in length. Some Castlemaine prisoners work outside the prison for community organisations during the day, while mat-making is the main industry undertaken inside the prison. Vegetable gardening also provides employment for a number of prisoners. The Dhurringile Rehabilitation Centre is a minimum-security "open" prison farm, catering for short-term prisoners. At Dhurringile, prisoners work on the farm, in the orchard, or in the recently built cannery.

Geelong Prison is a maximum-security walled prison, and is the second most secure prison in Victoria. Geelong's main prison industry is tailoring, and articles of clothing are manufactured for use in other institutions. Morwell River Prison and Won Wron Prison are minimum-security prisons where prisoners engage in forestry work from seed-raising to tree felling. Sale Prison is a medium-security prison, which caters for prisoners serving both long and short-term sentences. Mat-making and signwriting are the main industries at Sale, while a number of prisoners work outside the prison.

Fairlea Prison is Victoria's only prison for women. It consists of a group of older-type buildings, which have been supplemented by a number of villa-type units, with an additional unit currently being constructed. At Fairlea, women prisoners can work in the laundry, or can be employed in the kitchen, or engaged in doing general cleaning work. Vegetable and flower gardens are maintained by the prisoners, and the women make and mend their own clothes.

### *Attendance centres*

Attendance centres were established in Victoria in June 1976 as an alternative to full-time imprisonment. In the scheme's first year of operation, the attendance centres at Geelong and Thornbury handled more than 180 offenders. Two additional centres have since been opened at Barwon and Spotswood. Each of the centres has the capacity to supervise forty attenders at any one time thereby reducing the number of offenders who would otherwise have gone to prison. The Attendance Centre Scheme makes it possible for offenders to serve their sentences in the community, while at the same time maintaining their family life and their continuity of employment or education.

Instead of serving a traditional sentence in prison, an attendee gives time to the centre. He or she is able to continue working at a job, and earning money for personal and family needs, but is required to attend the centre for two evenings a week for discussions, training, or advice. Saturdays are spent in doing community work similar to that done by voluntary service organisations. It is estimated that about 70 to 80 per cent of community work now undertaken is for needy individuals. Community service projects carried out during the scheme's operation to date represent nearly 3,000 man days worked.

Offenders who attend the centre come by sentence of a court. The courts endeavour to ensure that offenders who could endanger the public do not receive the benefits of the scheme, or the other alternatives to imprisonment. The superintendent of an attendance centre supplies to the court, upon request, a report on the suitability of an offender before sentence is passed. When offenders start at an attendance centre, the superintendent and the welfare officers try to identify their individual needs, at the same time helping them to face problems and attempt to overcome them. This can be done by discussion, counselling, or referral to a community service, such as marriage guidance, English classes, and other facilities.

The work of attendees is organised by the programme supervisor. Attendance centre projects range from fire-fighting to home maintenance for pensioners and needy individuals, to the construction of aids for handicapped persons, and to gardening and beautification programmes. The beneficiaries of the scheme include children's homes, hospitals, schools, handicapped persons, pensioners, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), and local councils.

### *Office of Research and Social Policy*

The functions of the Office of Research and Social Policy are the:

- (1) Development of a theory base for public welfare practice and social policy analysis in conjunction with all levels of government and the voluntary sector;
- (2) development of a social indicators and resources system to monitor community needs and programme requirements;
- (3) development of a research and evaluation system to test the efficiency and effectiveness of social programmes;
- (4) development of social planning procedures and guidelines for programme implementation in co-operation with other divisions of the department; and
- (5) development of social administration systems in association with other divisions.

The Office has adopted the following unit structure: (1) Directorate and Programmes Unit; (2) Policy and Administration Unit; and (3) Research and Social Indicators Unit.

### *Training Division*

The Community Welfare Training Institute is responsible for the training services provided by the Department. The Institute offers courses relevant to the major aspects of welfare work undertaken by government and non-government agencies. It offers courses for a Certificate in Child Care, Certificate in Youth Work, Certificate in Welfare Work, and Certificate in Penology. In addition, there are courses of training for honorary probation officers and welfare volunteers. Tuition in all courses offered by the Institute is free of charge. Students undertaking a certificate course may be eligible for financial assistance under the Commonwealth Government's Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme. The Minister for the Department of Community Welfare Services also makes available some financial assistance to students in need who would not otherwise receive help. A Social Welfare Training Council, comprising twelve members, exercises general supervision of courses.

## Statistical summary

**VICTORIA—DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY WELFARE SERVICES: REVENUE  
AND EXPENDITURE  
(\$'000)**

Particulars	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Revenue	812	938	1,202	1,007	862
Expenditure—					
Central Administration Research and Social Policy } (a) 88,999 (b) 71,602			21,167	27,833	35,596 (c) 284
Regional Services (including Probation and Parole Services)	2,201	3,228	4,732	(d) 15,973	(d) 21,074
Family and Adolescent Services (e)	19,167	24,460	30,678	25,555	26,534
Correctional Services	8,576	10,825	12,734	14,385	16,703
Training Services	425	672	846	729	949
Total expenditure	119,368	110,788	70,157	84,475	101,140
Net expenditure	118,555	109,850	68,955	83,468	100,278

(a) Figures for 1974-75 include \$81.5m from the Hospitals and Charities Fund and \$171,625 from the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund.

(b) This figure includes \$59m from the Hospitals and Charities Fund.

(c) Prior to 1978-79, Research and Social Policy expenditure was included in Central Administration.

(d) Includes Family Assistance payments previously included in Family Welfare Services.

(e) Expenditure on Family Welfare and Youth Welfare Services now combined under Family and Adolescent Services.

NOTE: This table excludes Expenditure on Works and Services and recouped payments from the Commonwealth Government under the Deserted Wives Act.

**VICTORIA—FAMILY ASSISTANCE: FAMILIES  
RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AT 30 JUNE**

Type of case	Families receiving assistance		Children involved	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
<b>Cases where the Commonwealth Government reimburses half of the expenditure—</b>				
Deserted wives	2,049	2,221	4,302	4,728
Wives of prisoners	37	49	77	108
Single mothers	471	530	475	541
Deserted <i>de facto</i> wives	349	392	522	602
<i>De facto</i> wives of prisoners	10	10	17	19
<b>Cases not subject to Commonwealth Government reimbursement—</b>				
Assistance to persons who care for children whose parents—				
Are deceased	295	355	426	496
Have deserted the child	373	449	542	630
Are in prison	86	104	121	141
Special benefits (a)	6	41	12	81
Total	3,676	4,151	6,494	7,346

(a) Those receiving special benefits on the grounds of hardship.

**VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS**

Organisation	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
<b>Community Welfare Services—</b>					
Children placed during year	211	101	189	127	96
Legally finalised adoptions	209	173	158	154	112
<b>Private agencies—</b>					
Children placed during year	523	426	287	249	280
Legally finalised adoptions	537	460	328	290	276

**VICTORIA—FAMILY AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES:  
ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES OF WARDS**

Particulars	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Admissions during year	1,396	1,055	922	915	854
Discharges during year	1,687	1,001	1,128	1,273	1,218
Total wards at end of year—					
Males	3,832	4,009	3,909	3,617	3,366
Females	2,554	2,592	2,486	2,420	2,307

**VICTORIA—CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: RECEPTIONS AND DISCHARGES  
OF CONVICTED PERSONS**

Particulars	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
<b>Prisons</b>					
Receptions during year	9,857	9,574	8,901	9,201	8,443
Discharges during year	10,047	9,568	8,965	9,088	8,415
In prison at end of year—					
Males	1,561	1,549	1,488	1,594	1,624
Females	20	38	35	42	40
Number of prisons for—					
Males	12	11	10	10	10
Females	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Attendance centres</b>					
Receptions during year	..	17	183	246	339
Discharges during year	..	..	138	182	316
In attendance at end of year—					
Males	..	17	57	125	145
Females	..	..	5	1	4
Number of attendance centres	..	2	2	4	4

**VICTORIA—PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES:  
PERSONS ON PROBATION AND PAROLE**

Particulars	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Placed on probation or supervision during year	4,563	4,438	4,138	3,728	3,631
Completed probation or supervision during year	4,320	3,946	3,888	n.a.	n.a.
Probation or supervision cancelled during year	400	481	374	n.a.	n.a.
On probation or supervision at end of year—					
Males	4,704	4,725	4,795	n.a.	}5,404
Females	1,535	1,525	1,329	n.a.	
Released on parole during year	1,071	983	851	866	817
Completed parole during year	830	705	695	643	643
Parole cancelled during year	233	244	254	271	229.
On parole at end of year	1,127	1,161	917	866	921

Further references: Voluntary social services, *Victorian Year Book* 1965, pp. 304-7; Old People's Welfare Council, 1966, pp. 286-7; Voluntary Child Welfare, 1967, pp. 557-61; Voluntary social welfare work for the physically handicapped, 1968, pp. 558-60; Care of the elderly, 1969, pp. 582-4; Rehabilitation, 1970, pp. 577-8; Employment of the Handicapped, 1970, pp. 578-9; Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, 1970, pp. 579-80; Victorian School for Deaf Children, 1971, pp. 557-8; Voluntary services for the mentally handicapped, 1972, pp. 546-50; Social welfare activities in local government, 1974, pp. 580-3; Brotherhood of St Laurence, 1975, pp. 840-2; Consumer participation in voluntary social welfare, 1975, pp. 845-7; Life Line, 1976, p. 730; Youth Line, 1976, p. 730; Citizens' Advice Bureaux, 1977, pp. 852-4; Family and Community Services Programme, 1979, pp. 650-1

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES

**Australian Red Cross Society**

*Activities*

The Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society is responsible for all the activities of the Society in Victoria. Red Cross is a voluntary organisation maintained by donations and subscriptions; it conducts an annual appeal for funds. The primary objects C.13900/79.—23



of the Society are: furnishing aid to the sick and wounded, irrespective of nationality; rendering assistance in the case of large-scale public disaster, calamity, or need; improvement of health; prevention of disease; and the mitigation of suffering in Australia and elsewhere. The services include:

- (1) *Blood transfusion service.* Whole blood and blood derivatives are provided free of charge to all persons in need of them.
- (2) *Transport.* Red Cross volunteer drivers cover nearly 2,000,000 kilometres each year taking handicapped children and adults to special schools, clinics, and hospitals, or elderly persons on outings, etc.
- (3) *Disaster and emergency relief services.* Red Cross plays a major role in times of bushfires and other disasters and emergencies. Teams of volunteers are trained to set up Red Cross posts whenever the need arises. In individual emergencies such as house fires, Red Cross provides essential items such as bedding, clothing, toilet requisites, etc.
- (4) *Social work service.* An information and advisory service to individuals and communities in more than 40 country areas.
- (5) *Occupational therapy service.* Continuing rehabilitation in an activity centre setting. A home visiting service, as well as community links for disabled persons and activity training courses for volunteers is provided.
- (6) *Inquiry and Tracing Bureau.* This is a link in the international tracing service of the Red Cross. The Bureau handles hundreds of inquiries annually on behalf of persons in Victoria, for news of relatives displaced by war, political disturbances, or large-scale disasters.
- (7) *Home nursing equipment.* Items required for nursing patients at home, including wheelchairs and walking aids, are available on loan free of charge. Approximately 6,500 loans are made each year.
- (8) *Community services.* Trained personnel carry out a wide range of services in hospitals, baby health centres, and geriatric homes, and to the aged and sick in their own homes, and assist with such services as the delivery of meals-on-wheels.

*Statistical summary*

**VICTORIA—RED CROSS SOCIETY: BLOOD BANK OPERATIONS**

Particulars	Unit	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Blood donors on metropolitan rolls	number	97,230	109,569	87,914	104,839	135,490
Blood donations collected	number	163,840	171,732	183,903	207,871	248,349
Blood distributed	units	103,178	105,841	110,793	118,730	129,380
Stable plasma protein solution (SPPS)	units	13,953	19,482	21,294	23,653	23,828

**VICTORIA—RED CROSS SOCIETY: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
(\$)**

Particulars	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
<b>Income—</b>					
Commonwealth and Victorian Government grants	2,216,104	2,965,570	3,822,761	3,811,810	4,916,859
Annual appeal and fund raising	343,731	369,424	554,831	617,778	672,882
Donations—Red Cross branches and companies	588,972	614,808	713,284	792,167	827,179
Other	469,939	405,394	264,094	263,035	417,974
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,618,746</b>	<b>4,355,196</b>	<b>5,354,970</b>	<b>5,484,790</b>	<b>6,834,894</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>					
Blood transfusion service	1,976,103	2,693,410	3,325,908	3,843,037	4,950,820
Hospital services	161,642	227,137	245,300	287,559	347,090
Handcraft therapy	129,916	137,618	119,605	137,079	161,602
Red Cross homes	353,723	415,788	543,746	(a)	—
Relief activities	45,820	133,658	85,837	121,721	99,096
Social work service	149,475	182,652	193,001	175,566	177,352

VICTORIA—RED CROSS SOCIETY: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE—*continued*  
(\$)

Particulars	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Other community services	183,579	221,764	312,614	313,125	642,010
Other	457,289	537,262	530,724	608,123	463,433
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,457,547</b>	<b>4,549,289</b>	<b>5,356,735</b>	<b>5,486,210</b>	<b>6,841,403</b>

(a) Red Cross homes ceased to operate from this year.

Further references: Blood Transfusion Service, *Victorian Year Book* 1971, pp. 559-60; Youth activities, 1972, p. 551; Red Cross service corps, 1972, pp. 551-2; Music Therapy Service, 1974, p. 584; Disaster relief services, 1975, pp. 838-40; Social work service, 1976, p. 729; Hospital Services 1977, pp. 851-2

**Lord Mayor's Children's Camp, Portsea**

The Lord Mayor's Children's Camp is situated beside the Nepean Highway, Portsea, 96 kilometres from Melbourne, on high ground overlooking the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. Its object is to give children from throughout Victoria a holiday, to have each child medically and dentally examined, and to provide the services of qualified optometrists. Nine camps are held annually, each camp accommodating 150 girls and 150 boys.

**Friendly societies**

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1958 regulates the operations of friendly societies in Victoria. The types of societies eligible for registration are:

- (1) "Ordinary" societies, which provide one or more of the benefits set out in section 5 of the Act, namely, periodical payments during sickness, old age, and infirmity, lump sum payments on death or on the attainment of a specified age (endowment benefits), payments for hospital, medical, medicinal, and dental expenses;
- (2) dividing societies, which are "shop clubs" providing sickness and funeral benefits, and which divide their assets periodically;
- (3) united friendly societies' dispensaries, which provide medicine and medical and surgical appliances to members of friendly societies; and
- (4) societies "specially authorised" under the provisions of section 6 of the Act. The only societies which have been registered as "specially authorised" societies are four total abstinence societies.

The following tables provide a summary of friendly societies' activities for the years 1972-73 to 1976-77. For further details, reference may be made to the *Report of the Government Statist on Friendly Societies*, printed annually by the Victorian Government Printer, Melbourne.

## VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES

Particulars	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Number of societies—					
Ordinary	34	33	35	39	37
Dividing	75	71	69	66	63
Dispensaries	30	30	30	30	31
Specially authorised	4	4	4	4	4
Number of branches of ordinary societies	1,034	1,023	1,015	1,006	982
Membership—ordinary and dividing societies (a)—					
Contributors for sick and funeral benefits	147,444	145,623	144,054	135,642	130,784
Contributors for medical benefits	297,468	310,302	320,717	(b)	(c) 256,278
Contributors for hospital benefits	305,824	321,764	336,185	291,469	327,355
Contributors for ancillary benefits	—	—	—	(d) 496,999	182,988
Benefit contracts in force for whole of life and endowment benefits	37,952	39,318	40,743	41,449	41,569
Members affiliated with dispensaries	73,627	72,896	68,532	54,416	50,674
Membership—specially authorised societies	157	155	152	156	188

(a) A member may contribute for any number or all of these benefits and is entered in the table in each benefit for which he contributes.

(b) Nil membership. With the introduction of the Medibank Medical Scheme on 1 July 1975, membership of the Medical Benefit Funds of Friendly Societies ceased.

(c) As a result of changes to the National Health Scheme, Medical Benefit Funds recommenced operations on 1 October 1976.

(d) The figure of 496,999 includes 284,596 belonging to the H.B.A. Friendly Society which was registered just prior to the commencement of 1975-76, and whose registration was cancelled on 6 October 1976.

**VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: INCOME, EXPENDITURE, FUNDS**  
(**\$'000**)

Particulars	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
<b>Income—</b>					
Ordinary and dividing societies	44,887	57,131	74,809	84,681	96,901
Dispensaries	4,580	4,641	5,252	6,024	6,329
Specially authorised societies	20	23	22	28	30
<b>Total income</b>	<b>49,487</b>	<b>61,795</b>	<b>80,083</b>	<b>90,733</b>	<b>103,260</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>					
Ordinary and dividing societies	42,091	51,917	70,352	68,173	97,298
Dispensaries	4,434	4,575	5,287	5,641	5,811
Specially authorised societies	7	7	10	12	18
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>46,532</b>	<b>56,499</b>	<b>75,649</b>	<b>73,826</b>	<b>103,127</b>
<b>Fund balances—</b>					
<b>Ordinary and dividing societies—</b>					
Sick and funeral funds	21,970	22,427	23,027	23,096	24,098
Assurance funds	13,933	16,247	18,290	20,866	23,330
Medical benefit funds	16	935	1,785	1,078	-907
Hospital benefit funds	9,539	10,145	10,420	15,799	17,276
Management and other funds	8,086	8,991	9,952	10,015	10,694
Ancillary benefit funds	..	..	..	8,784	4,783
<b>Total ordinary and dividing societies</b>	<b>53,544</b>	<b>58,745</b>	<b>63,474</b>	<b>79,638</b>	<b>79,274</b>
Dispensaries	3,233	3,301	3,284	3,768	4,413
Specially authorised societies	304	320	332	347	359
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>57,081</b>	<b>62,366</b>	<b>67,090</b>	<b>83,753</b>	<b>84,046</b>

**VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: AMOUNTS DISBURSED IN BENEFITS**  
(**\$'000**)

Nature of benefit	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Sick pay	580	558	574	577	624
Funeral benefits	280	278	308	322	335
Non-contributory endowment benefits	95	138	156	524	176
Whole of life, endowment, and other assurance benefits	1,200	1,730	2,330	2,770	3,360
<b>Medical benefits—</b>					
Society benefit	8,348	9,987	14,745	(a) 9,536	29,228
Government subsidy	9,256	10,256	11,374	2,987	78
<b>Hospital benefits—</b>					
Society benefit	15,270	20,546	29,095	25,205	34,399
Government subsidy	1,414	1,487	1,586	1,348	162
Medicinal, dental, and ancillary benefits	261	488	929	(b) 11,183	7,162

(a) Includes payments by H.B.A. Friendly Society amounting to \$5.269m.

(b) Includes payments by H.B.A. Friendly Society amounting to \$8.007m.

**RECREATION**

**Victorian Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation**

*Sport and recreation*

The Victorian Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation assists recreation and sport in Victoria in two main ways:

(1) By providing capital financial assistance to municipal councils towards the construction of indoor sports and recreation centres, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and the development and extension of existing recreation reserves and facilities, including the purchase of land. To the end of 1978-79, the Department assisted 189 of the 211 Victorian municipalities with subsidies totalling \$17.5m and loans totalling \$2,272,838.

(2) By providing assistance to State-wide sports and recreation bodies for the development and promotion of sporting and recreational activities in Victoria. During 1978-79, \$492,155 was provided for this purpose. In addition, \$36,856 was provided for sports coaches, education courses, and assistance to handicapped groups.

#### *Racing*

The management of the sports of horse racing, trotting, and greyhound racing in Victoria is the responsibility of the Victorian Racing Club, the Trotting Control Board, and the Greyhound Racing Control Board, respectively. The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation controls the administration of the *Racing Act* 1958 through its Racing Division. This Division is also responsible for the provision of administrative and secretarial services to the Racecourses Licences Board (Racing and Trotting Divisions) and the Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board. It also issues permits pursuant to the *Racing Act*. During the year ended 30 June 1979, 98 licences were issued.

The greater part of the funds for the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation is received from the racing industry by means of a deduction from specified off-course totalizator investments. The present rate of deduction is 2 per cent of daily double investments and 4 per cent of quadrella investments. For the year ended 31 July 1979, \$7.1m was paid directly to the Department. In addition, a further amount of \$33.8m was allocated by the Victorian Government to the Hospitals and Charities Commission, and \$4.1m to the Racecourses Development Funds from off-course investments. A further \$12m was deducted from on-course totalizator investments and distributed to the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

#### *Youth Affairs*

In April 1979, the Victorian Government Youth Policy statement was released by the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation. The policy's main aim is to co-ordinate programmes and services provided to all young persons by Victorian Government departments and non-government agencies. The policy reaffirms the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation's role of co-ordinating the Victorian Government's work with young persons. The Department's responsibilities also include an advocacy role for youth, drawing attention to the situation of young persons in this State. The policy has been widely distributed to Ministers, State Government departments, municipal councils, youth and community agencies, and among young persons. The Department is seeking community comment on the principles adopted and the priority issues identified in the youth policy.

On release of the Youth Policy, the Victorian Government indicated its intention of creating a Victorian Office of Youth Affairs through the expansion of the existing Youth Section of the Department. The Office of Youth Affairs will be supported by other Divisions within the Department.

The total funds available in the Youth Fund for the 1978-79 financial year were \$2.26m. The main allocations from the Youth Fund were: \$442,355 to State-wide and parent youth associations; \$242,020 in subsidies (at the rate of \$8,500 a year) towards the employment of 32 special youth workers, including outreach workers; \$206,859 for programmes (\$500 maximum) encouraging the community use of State, registered, and private schools; \$171,358 to individual youth clubs and organisations towards their operating and equipment costs; \$169,163 in youth building subsidies; and \$81,732 in salary subsidies (at the rate of \$8,500 a year) for the employment, by eight State-wide or parent youth organisations, of special officers to recruit and train voluntary youth leaders.

On 19 April 1979, the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation and the Victorian Manager of Caltex Oil (Australia) Pty Ltd, announced the establishment of the Victorian Industry Youth Foundation. The Foundation aims to encourage industry to contribute funds, which will be matched by the Department, to assist with projects for the development of young persons.

The "Youth 2000" series has been designed to assist communication with young persons. The "Youth 2008 . . . Focus on Employment" project was the fifth programme of the "Youth 2000" series. It was funded by the Department and undertaken by the Youth Council of Victoria. The aim of the project was to focus community debate across

Victoria on the employment issue. The project led to the publication of *Employment and Unemployment . . . The Players, Employment and Unemployment . . . The Issues and the Youth 2008 . . . Focus on Employment Project Report*.

#### *Finance*

The following table shows details of principal sources of receipts and payments, for the years 1977-78 and 1978-79:

### VICTORIA—DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION: RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS (\$)

Particulars	1977-78	1978-79
<b>Receipts—</b>		
Racing—percentage of Totalizator Agency Board turnover	6,914,963	7,102,208
Tabella—percentage of Totalizator Agency Board turnover	51,164	27,153
Soccerpools Consultations	968,101	1,284,320
Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs	408,525	91,641
Loan Repayments (Municipalities)	—	93,900
Life. Be in it. (Royalties, sales, and Commonwealth contribution)	42,000	123,335
Miscellaneous	9,129	10,705
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,393,882</b>	<b>8,733,262</b>
<b>Payments—</b>		
Sports and Recreation Fund	5,950,517	7,113,682
Youth Affairs Fund	2,031,736	2,208,353
Australian Football Fund	201,522	174,541
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,183,775</b>	<b>9,496,576</b>

#### *“Life. Be in it”*

The Department initiated its “Life. Be in it” campaign in 1975 to help promote the fitness and general health of Victorians and to encourage greater participation in a wide range of physical and recreational activities. Marketing and advertising techniques have been used to develop strategies to motivate and bring about greater community activity levels.

In 1977, the “Life. Be in it” programme was adopted by the Recreation Ministers’ Council, which comprises all Ministers responsible for sport and recreation in Australia, for use throughout the nation. In two years it has achieved a 97 per cent awareness level in Victoria.

More recently a number of overseas countries have expressed interest in the programme and it was likely that in the 1980s the “Life. Be in it” programme would be adapted for use in other countries.

#### *Councils and boards*

Under the Youth, Sport and Recreation Act, as amended in 1977, the Minister is advised on policy by the State Youth Council, the State Recreational Council, and the State Sports Council. Each council meets not less than six times during the year to initiate, consider, and review departmental policies. In addition, there are the following five advisory bodies in existence: the Youth Council of Victoria, Junior Football Council, Bushwalking and Mountain-craft Leadership Training Advisory Board, Victorian Advisory Council on Recreation for the Handicapped, and State Swimming and Water Safety Development Committee.

#### *Municipal recreation*

The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation has, as a major priority, the encouragement and further development of the State’s municipal recreation network. To this end, the Department has regionalised its own resources and staff and established a strong municipal recreational service. During 1978-79, the number of municipalities utilising the Department’s Municipal Recreational Officer’s (MRO) subsidy increased from 70 to 76. A notable benefit of the subsidy has been the encouragement given to a number

of municipalities to appoint additional recreation staff and to establish recreation departments within their administrative structures.

*Research and special projects*

In 1978-79, the Department allocated \$72,500 to research projects. These projects included:

- (1) The development of inventory systems and the completion of the inventory of facilities for local government authorities;
- (2) a survey to determine the effects of physical activity on coronary risk factors;
- (3) a survey on the leisure attitudes of individuals not in the work force;
- (4) an investigation into the nature and extent of hidden unemployment in Victoria; and
- (5) grants to local government authorities to undertake leisure and recreation studies and strategy plans.

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