

This page was added on 03 December 2012 to included the Disclaimer below.
No other amendments were made to this Product

DISCLAIMER

Users are warned that this historic issue of this publication series may contain language or views which, reflecting the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written, may be considered to be inappropriate or offensive today.

CHAPTER XVIII.

WELFARE SERVICES.

A. COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

§ 1. Introduction.

The Welfare services outlined in this chapter are those administered by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. Particulars of benefits provided under the National Health Service appear in Chapter XVII.—Public Health, page 664.

§ 2. National Welfare Fund.

The National Welfare Fund was established by the National Welfare Fund Act 1943 to finance a scheme of national welfare. In introducing this measure to Parliament, the Prime Minister said that part of the scheme was to be introduced immediately, and part was to be deferred until after the end of the war. A certain balance, which would therefore accrue to the fund, would be invested in Commonwealth securities, and would thus provide finance for the war effort.

The fund operated from 1st July, 1943. At its commencement, it was used to finance funeral benefits and maternity allowances. Other social and health benefits were made a charge on the fund from time to time. At present, expenditure on all benefits except repatriation and a few minor social and health benefits is met from the fund. The fund is used only to finance the benefits themselves; it is not used to finance the cost of administering the benefits, or of capital works associated with the benefits.

For particulars of the income of the fund, see Chapter XXI, Public Finance, Division A, § 2, C., para. 6. The following table sets out expenditure from the fund during 1959–60.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE FROM NATIONAL WELFARE FUND
ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, 1959–60.
(£'000.)

Service.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Over- seas.	Total.
<i>Social Services—</i>										
Age and Invalid Pen- sions ..	60,438	35,935	22,386	13,183	9,916	4,746	89	201	111	147,005
Child Endowment ..	22,325	16,963	9,650	5,897	4,860	2,359	179	281	18	62,532
Commonwealth Re- habilitation Service ..	188	201	94	92	85	21	..	..	..	681
Funeral Benefits ..	147	91	48	31	24	11	..	1	..	353
Maternity Allowances ..	1,277	1,008	575	337	275	143	12	21	4	3,652
Unemployment Bene- fits ..	1,601	936	1,027	249	564	121	1	6	..	4,505
Sickness Benefits ..	940	546	339	172	164	68	2	7	..	2,238
Special Benefits(b) ..	139	202	89	36	24	19	..	1	..	510
Widows' Pensions ..	4,802	2,916	1,999	1,045	914	416	9	24	12	12,137
<i>National Health Ser- vices—</i>										
Hospital Benefits ..	8,151	4,212	2,393	1,562	1,676	534	44	27	..	18,599
Medical Benefits ..	3,950	2,204	1,053	991	846	248	..	..	..	9,292
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	1,868	978	522	362	275	100	..	8	..	4,113
Nutrition of Children ..	1,283	908	479	274	228	153	11	23	..	3,359
Pharmaceutical Bene- fits ..	8,298	6,091	2,715	1,710	1,337	567	..	(c) 43	..	20,761
Pharmaceutical Bene- fits for Pensioners ..	1,577	789	540	331	252	85	..	..	..	3,574
Tuberculosis Cam- paign—										
Allowances ..	358	212	202	124	70	60	..	..	..	1,026
Maintenance and Surveys(d) ..	1,375	1,096	546	623	512	147	..	38	..	4,337
Miscellaneous(e) ..	41	55	102	11	17	22	15	(f) 426	..	689
Total ..	118,758	75,343	44,759	27,030	22,039	9,820	362	1,107	145	299,363

(a) Payments for some Health Services to residents of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory are included in the amounts shown for States. (b) Includes special benefits to migrants in reception and training centres. (c) Includes payments to Bush Nursing Centres and Royal Flying Doctor Service. (d) Paid to the State Governments as a contribution towards the cost of surveys and the maintenance of institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis. (e) This item covers the cost of district laboratory services, the free supply of prophylactic materials and biological products (e.g., insulin, poliomyelitis and diphtheria prophylactics), the supply and maintenance of hearing aids for children, subsidies to voluntary organizations conducting home-nursing services, and certain costs associated with the blood transfusion services of the Australian Red Cross Society. (f) Includes £241,364 for the production of poliomyelitis vaccine, £80,000 for running expenses of the Blood Fractionation Plant at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and £53,616 for home-nursing service throughout Australia.

Expenditure from the fund during each of the years 1955-56 to 1959-60 is shown in the following table. A graph showing expenditure from the fund from 1943-44 to 1959-60 is to be found on page 699.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE FROM NATIONAL WELFARE FUND
ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.**
(£'000.)

Service.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.
<i>Social Services—</i>					
Age and Invalid Pensions	101,625	109,210	121,577	129,571	147,005
Child Endowment (a)	60,381	57,037	58,734	67,340	62,532
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	505	568	608	670	681
Funeral Benefits	319	341	325	346	353
Maternity Allowances	3,410	3,482	3,560	3,599	3,652
Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits	2,563	4,000	7,331	8,652	7,253
Widows' Pensions	7,723	8,862	9,832	10,777	12,137
<i>National Health Services—</i>					
Hospital Benefits	9,553	9,813	10,823	14,802	18,599
Medical Benefits	5,413	6,146	7,086	7,780	9,292
Medical Benefits for Pensioners	2,874	2,999	3,198	3,806	4,113
Nutrition of Children	2,405	2,607	2,756	3,069	3,359
Pharmaceutical Benefits	10,380	9,924	12,911	18,455	20,761
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners	1,508	1,793	2,123	2,517	3,574
<i>Tuberculosis Campaign—</i>					
Allowances	1,690	1,461	1,255	1,063	1,026
Maintenance	4,007	4,755	4,511	4,787	4,337
Miscellaneous	510	925	855	768	689
Rental Rebates				25	
Total	214,866	223,923	247,485	278,227	299,363

(a) See footnote to table on p. 695.

§ 3. Capital and Administrative Expenditure.

Particulars of Commonwealth capital expenditure on mental hospitals and the Anti-Tuberculosis campaign are given in Chapter XVII., Public Health (*see* pages 666 and 669). Grants are made to private organizations for the construction of homes for elderly people (*see* para. 4, p. 705).

Information concerning the cost of administering each benefit separately is not compiled. Particulars of the cost of administering the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services may be found in Chapter XXI., Public Finance, Division A, § 2, C., para. 5.

B. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES.

§ 1. Introduction.

Under the provisions of section 51 of the Constitution, the Commonwealth Government is empowered to legislate on:—

“(xxiii) Invalid and old-age pensions:

(xxiiiA) The provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorize any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances:”.

The latter paragraph was inserted in the constitution after being accepted by the electors at a referendum on 28th September, 1946. The enabling Act was assented to on 19th December, 1946.

Before 1947, each social service benefit was paid under a separate Act. On 1st July, 1947, with the passage of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947, all Acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated. This Act eliminated certain anomalies and obsolete provisions and changed the title “old-age pension” to “age pension”. The word “Consolidation” was dropped from the short title of the Act in 1954. The Act is at present styled the Social Services Act 1947-1960.

The social service benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government, and the date on which each came into operation, are:—

Age pension	..	..	..	1st July, 1909
Child endowment (for other than first child)	..	..	..	1st July, 1941
Child endowment (for first child)	..	..	..	20th June, 1950
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	..	..	..	10th December, 1948
Funeral benefit	..	..	..	1st July, 1943
Invalid pension	..	..	..	15th December, 1910
Maternity allowance	..	..	..	10th October, 1912
Sickness benefit	..	..	..	1st July, 1945
Special benefit	..	..	..	1st July, 1945
Unemployment benefit	..	..	..	1st July, 1945
Widows' pension	..	..	..	30th June, 1942.

§ 2. Age and Invalid Pensions.

Age pensions are payable to men, 65 years of age and over, and women, 60 years of age and over, who are British subjects and who have resided in Australia¹ continuously for at least 20 years, which need not be immediately prior to the date of claim for a pension. Absence in a Territory of the Commonwealth, any periods of absence during which a person's home remained in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances including, in the case of a claimant who has had at least 18 years' residence, occasional absences aggregating up to 2 years plus 6 months for every year of residence in excess of 18 years, are counted as residence.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons, 16 years of age and over, who have resided in Australia for a continuous period of five years (including certain absences), and who are permanently incapacitated for work to the extent of at least 85 per cent., or permanently blind. If the incapacity or blindness first occurred outside Australia, except during a temporary absence, a total of 20 years' residence is necessary. Certain absences count as residence.

Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for age and invalid pensions on the same conditions as other members of the community.

A pension is not payable to:—an alien; a person who has deprived himself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension; a person whose annual rate of income is £442 per annum (£884 per annum for a married couple) or more; a person who owns property, apart from his permanent home and other exempt property, valued at £4,620 or more (£9,240 for a married couple). A pensioner with dependent children may, in certain circumstances, have additional income of 10 shillings a week for each child under 16 years of age.

Since 6th October, 1960, the maximum rate of pension has been £260 per annum (£5 a week). The wife of an invalid pensioner (or of an age pensioner who is permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind) may be granted a wife's allowance of not more than £91 per annum (£1 15s. a week). A child's allowance of £29 18s. per annum (11s. 6d. a week) is also paid to an invalid pensioner who is maintaining a child under 16 years of age. If an invalid pensioner is maintaining more than one child, his pension is increased, subject to the means test, by £26 per annum (10s. a week) for each additional child. Supplementary assistance of £26 per annum (10s. a week) is payable to single pensioners and to married pensioners whose spouses do not receive pension or allowance, if the pensioner pays rent and is considered to be entirely dependent on his pension. At 30th June, 1960, 407,650 age pensioners (76 per cent. of all age pensioners) and 70,151 invalid pensioners (87 per cent. of all invalid pensioners) were receiving the maximum pension (£247 at that date).

If a pensioner is an inmate of a benevolent home, £1 15s. a week of his pension is paid to him. The rest is paid to the home for his maintenance, except where he is a patient in an infirmary ward.

Age and invalid pensions (other than invalid pensions paid to blind persons) and allowances paid to wives of invalid pensioners (but not the child's allowance of 11s. 6d. a week) are subject to a means test which applies to income and to property. From March 1961, the means tests previously applied separately on income and property were merged into

one composite means test. The pension payable depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. These consist of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to £1 for each complete £10 of his net property above £200. A person's *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of property component, or of various combinations of income and property component. The pension payable is calculated by deducting from the maximum annual rate of pension the amount by which the *means as assessed* exceeds £182. No pension is payable if the pensioner's property is £4,620 or more.

Certain types of income are excepted. The main exceptions are:—income from property; gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters; benefits from friendly societies; child endowment or other payments for children; Commonwealth health benefits and amounts received from registered benefit organizations. The value of free board and lodging received by a pensioner is assessed as income of 12s. 6d. a week.

Certain types of property are disregarded. They include the permanent home of the pensioner, his furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to £750) of life insurance policies, the capital value of annuities or contingent interests and the value of any reversionary interests.

For the purposes of the means test, the income and property of a married person are considered to be half the total income and property of the husband and wife (unless they are legally separated or in other special circumstances. The pension is then assessed as for a single pensioner.

The following statement shows the rates of pension at 1st July, 1909, and the rates as they have been varied since that date, subject in all cases to income and property qualifications:—

MAXIMUM RATES OF PENSION PAYABLE.(a)

Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable.		Limit of Income (including Pension) per Annum.	Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable.		Limit of Income (including Pension) per Annum.
	Per Week.	Per Annum.			Per Week.	Per Annum.	
	s. d.	£ s.	£ s.		s. d.	£ s.	£ s.
1st July, 1909 ..	10 0	26 0	52 0	1st April, 1943(c) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
12th October, 1916 ..	12 6	32 10	58 10	19th August, 1943(c) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
1st January, 1920 ..	15 0	39 0	65 0	25th November, 1943(c) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
13th September, 1923 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	25th November, 1943(e) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
8th October, 1925 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	5th July, 1945 ..	32 6	84 10	117 0
23rd July, 1931 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	13th August, 1946 ..	32 6	84 10	116 10
13th October, 1932(b) ..	15 0	39 0	71 10	3rd July, 1947 ..	37 6	97 10	149 10
26th October, 1933 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	21st October, 1948 ..	42 6	110 10	188 10
4th July, 1935(c) ..	18 0	46 16	79 6	2nd November, 1950 ..	50 0	130 0	208 0
24th September, 1936 ..	19 0	49 8	81 18	1st November, 1951 ..	60 0	156 0	234 0
9th September, 1937 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	2nd October, 1952 ..	67 6	175 10	253 10
26th December, 1940 ..	21 0	54 12	87 2	29th October, 1953 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
3rd April, 1941(c) ..	21 6	55 18	88 8	14th October, 1954 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
11th December, 1941 ..	23 6	61 2	93 12	27th October, 1955 ..	80 0	208 0	390 0
2nd April, 1942(c) ..	24 0	62 8	94 18	24th October, 1957 ..	87 6	227 10	409 10
2nd April, 1942(d) ..	25 0	65 0	97 10	8th October, 1959 ..	95 0	247 0	429 0
1st October, 1942(c) ..	25 6	66 6	98 16	6th October, 1960 ..	100 0	260 0	442 0
7th January, 1943(c) ..	26 0	67 12	100 2				

(a) Excludes amounts payable for wives and children of invalid pensioners and supplementary assistance. (b) Additional pension of £6 10s. per annum (2s. 6d. a week) was payable to a pensioner with no income. Pensioners with income of less than 2s. 6d. a week were paid additional pension of 2s. 6d. less the amount of income. (c) Variation according to change in retail price index number.

(d) Increase paid on 9th July, 1942, retrospective to 2nd April, 1942. (e) Rate restored to £70 4s. per annum under National Security (Supplementary) Regulations 112A—Statutory Rule 315 of 1943.

NOTE.—Provision for variations according to retail price index numbers was repealed on 6th April, 1944.

The number of age pensioners at 30th June, 1960, was 538,022, of whom 168,185 (or 31 per cent.) were males, and 369,837 (or 69 per cent.) were females. This was an increase of 24,233 for the year. Over a third of the increase was due to statistical adjustments in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, where the introduction of mechanical methods for paying pensions enabled the Department to make a complete count of the numbers receiving the different kinds of pensions and allowances. This revealed that a number of age pensioners had previously been shown incorrectly in these statistics as invalid pensioners. The adjustment between the two types of pensions has altered the numbers in each category, but the combined total of pensioners has not been affected to any significant extent.

During 1959-60, 52,472 age pension claims were granted, 39,357 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths, and 11,252 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list. Of the latter, 10,237 were due to the statistical adjustment referred to above.

The recorded ages of the 52,472 persons (19,812 males and 32,660 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1959-60 varied considerably, ranging from 9,615 at age 60 to four who were over 97; 38,904 were in the 60-69 age-group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows:—Males—single and divorced 2,385; married, 14,383; and widowed, 3,044; Females—single and divorced, 4,235; married, 18,026; and widowed, 10,399.

The number of invalid pensioners at 30th June, 1960, was 80,816 of whom 42,834 (or 53 per cent.) were males and 37,982 (or 47 per cent.) were females. During 1959-60, 14,416 invalid pension claims were granted, 6,271 pensions ceased through cancellation or death, and 11,252 invalid pensioners were transferred to the age pension list. Of the latter, 10,237 were due to the statistical adjustment. Pensioners in benevolent homes have been included.

The recorded ages of the 14,416 persons (8,891 males and 5,525 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1959-60 varied widely, 1,215 (9 per cent.) were in the 16-19 years age-group, 2,437 (17 per cent.) were in the 20-44 years age-group, 7,255 (50 per cent.) were in the 45-59 years age-group, 2,765 (19 per cent.) were in the 60-64 years age-group, and 744 (5 per cent.) were over 65 years of age.

The conjugal condition of persons to whom invalid pensions were granted during the year was as follows:—males—single, 3,018; married, 5,278; and widowed, 595; females—single, 2,102; married, 2,598; and widowed, 825.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 30th JUNE, 1960.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (a)	Qld. (a)	S.A.	W.A. (a)	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<i>Age Pensions in force—</i>									
Males	67,454	40,027	27,913	15,384	11,952	5,060	178	217	168,185
Females	149,342	96,071	54,283	34,095	24,623	10,775	183	465	369,837
Persons	216,796	136,098	82,196	49,479	36,575	15,835	361	682	538,022
<i>Invalid Pensions in force—</i>									
Males	18,335	9,447	6,312	3,450	3,458	1,693	84	55	42,834
Females	17,306	8,099	5,293	2,937	2,694	1,513	67	73	37,982
Persons	35,641	17,546	11,605	6,387	6,152	3,206	151	128	80,816

(a) On 30th June, 1960, a number of invalid pensioners were transferred to their correct designation of age pensioners as follows:—Victoria, 4,843; Queensland, 4,908; and Western Australia, 486.

The sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in 1959-60, including the amount paid to homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, represented an expenditure of £14 9s. 1d. per head of population as compared with £13 0s. 4d. in 1958-59.

The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions for the years 1955-56 to 1959-60:—

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensioners at End of Year.				Total Payments. (c)	Average Fortnightly Pension as at 30th June.		
	Age.		Invalid.	Total. (b)		Age.	Invalid.	Age and Invalid Com- bined.
	No.	Rate. (a)						
			No.	No.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1956 ..	(d)446,207	449	(e) 82,775	535,226	101,625,068	153 7	156 10	154 1
1957 ..	465,781	460	88,236	554,017	109,209,972	152 10	157 8	153 7
1958 ..	(f)496,757	482	(f) 77,451	574,208	121,577,042	166 11	171 9	167 7
1959 ..	513,789	490	83,853	597,642	129,571,447	166 9	173 5	167 8
1960 ..	(g)538,022	501	(g) 80,816	618,838	147,005,341	180 7	189 4	181 9

(a) Number of pensioners per 1,000 persons of pensionable age (males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over). (b) Includes age and invalid pensioners in benevolent homes.

(c) Includes allowances and supplementary assistance. (d) Excludes age pensioners in benevolent homes.

(e) Excludes invalid pensioners in benevolent homes. (f) On 30th June, 1958, 15,205

invalid pensioners in New South Wales were transferred to their correct designation of age pensioners.

(g) On 30th June, 1960, a number of invalid pensioners were transferred to their correct designation of age pensioners as follows:—Victoria, 4,843; Queensland, 4,908; and Western Australia, 486.

§ 3. Child Endowment.

A person who is resident in Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates, shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child under 16. There are provisions to meet cases of families divided because of divorce, separation, unemployment or death of a parent. There is no means test.

Twelve months' residence in Australia is required if the mother and the child were not born here, but this requirement is waived if the Department of Social Services is satisfied that they are likely to remain in Australia permanently. Where the child's father is not a British subject, endowment is payable if the child was born in Australia, if the mother is a British subject, or if the Department is satisfied that the child is likely to remain permanently in Australia.

Under certain conditions, endowment may be paid to Australians who are temporarily absent overseas. Endowment is payable to aboriginal natives unless they are nomadic or primitive.

From 1st July, 1941, the rate of endowment was 5s. a week for each child in excess of one in a family, and for each child under 16 in an approved institution. The rate was increased to 7s. 6d. a week in June, 1945, and to 10s. a week in November, 1948. Since June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been 5s. a week for the first child in a family, 10s. a week for each other child in a family, and 10s. a week for each child in an institution.

The number of families receiving child endowment at 30th June, 1960, was 1,476,835, an increase of 25,319 or 1.7 per cent. during the year. The following table shows, for each State and Territory, the number of claims for child endowment in force and the number of endowed children at 30th June, 1960.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED CHILDREN, 30th JUNE, 1960.

State or Territory.	Family Groups.			Institutions.		Total Endowed Childrea.
	Claims in force.	Endowed Children.		Number.	Endowed Child Inmates.	
		Number.	Average number per claim.			
New South Wales	550,258	1,162,471	2.11	126	6,337	1,168,808
Victoria ..	403,934	874,014	2.16	100	5,365	879,379
Queensland ..	211,837	490,785	2.32	49	3,487	494,272
South Australia ..	139,985	308,033	2.20	50	1,563	309,596
Western Australia	107,918	246,788	2.29	67	3,661	250,449
Tasmania ..	51,463	120,769	2.35	19	548	121,317
Northern Territory	3,575	8,050	2.25	32	2,795	10,845
Australian Capital Territory ..	7,624	17,242	2.26	..	..	17,242
Overseas ..	241	505	2.10	..	..	505
Total ..	1,476,835	3,228,657	2.19	443	23,756	3,252,413

The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1960, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children, classified according to the number of endowed children in the family group. The families included in the table are not necessarily made up entirely of the children of one marriage, but may include step-children, foster children, adopted children, and all children under the custody, care and control of the claimant.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED CHILDREN IN FAMILY GROUPS, 30th JUNE, 1960.

Number of Endowed Children in Family Group.	Claims in Force.	Endowed Children.	Number of Endowed Children in Family Group.	Claims in Force.	Endowed Children.
1 ..	522,712	522,712	9 ..	1,098	9,882
2 ..	484,005	968,010	10 ..	388	3,880
3 ..	270,402	811,206	11 ..	127	1,397
4 ..	122,003	488,012	12 ..	43	516
5 ..	47,016	235,080	13 ..	14	182
6 ..	18,629	111,774	16 and over ..	3	63
7 ..	7,217	50,519			
8 ..	3,178	25,424	Total ..	1,476,835	3,228,657

The following table shows the annual liability in respect of child endowment at 30th June, 1960, and the actual expenditure thereon for the year 1959-60 in each State and Territory.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, 1959-60.

(£.)

State or Territory.	Annual Liability at 30th June, 1960.			Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions during 1959-60.
	Family Groups.	Institutions.	Total.	
New South Wales ..	23,070,892	164,762	23,235,654	22,325,137
Victoria ..	17,473,222	139,490	17,612,712	16,962,637
Queensland ..	10,006,529	90,662	10,097,191	9,649,931
South Australia ..	6,189,053	40,638	6,229,691	5,896,887
Western Australia ..	5,013,554	95,186	5,108,740	4,859,840
Tasmania ..	2,470,975	14,248	2,485,223	2,359,554
Northern Territory ..	162,825	72,670	235,495	179,516
Australian Capital Territory ..	349,180	..	349,180	280,969
Overseas ..	9,997	..	9,997	17,506
Total ..	64,746,227	617,656	65,363,883	62,531,977

The following table shows, for Australia, the number of claims, the number of endowed children and the annual liability at 30th June for each of the years from 1956 to 1960 and the actual expenditure for the years 1955-56 to 1959-60.

CHILD ENDOWMENT SUMMARY: AUSTRALIA.

At 30th June—	Family Group Claims.	Institutions.	Endowed Children.	Annual Liability for Endowment. (a)	Total Payments. (a) (b)
				£	£
1956 ..	1,339,807	392	2,875,664	57,349,773	(c) 60,380,685
1957 ..	1,378,169	397	2,978,191	59,516,769	57,036,962
1958 ..	1,415,378	415	3,073,945	61,522,656	58,733,561
1959 ..	1,451,516	421	3,171,823	63,597,690	(c) 67,539,615
1960 ..	1,476,835	443	3,252,413	65,363,883	62,531,977

(a) A number of endowments are paid every twelve weeks. During two years out of every three, there are four such payments, but every third year there are five. Figures for annual liability, therefore, reflect trends in expenditure on child endowment more accurately than do figures for payments.

(b) Year ended 30th June.

(c) Expenditure for this year includes five twelve weekly payments.

§ 4. Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service.

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service has been set up to help persons who are unable to work because of physical handicap, or who have had to give up their employment because of sickness or injury. It helps disabled persons to reach their maximum physical fitness and to prepare for suitable employment. They are given suitable treatment and training, the cases selected being those in which the person's disability is remediable and there are reasonable prospects of his engaging in a suitable vocation within three years after the commencement of treatment or training.

The benefits are available to invalid and widow pensioners, persons receiving unemployment, sickness or special benefits, persons receiving tuberculosis allowances and persons aged 14 or 15 who, without treatment and training, would be likely to qualify for

an invalid pension on reaching the age of 16 years. Other persons may participate in the scheme upon reimbursement of the cost of treatment and training. During treatment, payment of pension or benefit continues. When vocational training begins, the pension or benefit is suspended and a rehabilitation allowance, together with a training allowance of £1 10s. a week, is paid instead. With an invalid pensioner, or a sickness, unemployment or special beneficiary, this is equivalent to and calculated in the same manner as an invalid pension. In the case of a widow pensioner, the rate is the same as that of the widow's pension.

Living-away-from-home allowances are paid where necessary. Fares and living expenses (including those of an attendant where required) incurred in connexion with treatment, training or attendance for an interview or for medical examination may also be paid. A person receiving treatment or training may be provided, free of charge, with necessary artificial replacements, surgical aids and appliances. He may also be provided with books, equipment and tools of trade, costing not more than £40. If these are retained by him, he is required to pay the cost, but payments may be made by small instalments after he has commenced in employment.

If the treatment or vocational training does not result in the trainee being able to engage in employment, he receives the pension or benefit to which he is entitled.

The numbers of persons receiving benefits who were examined, accepted, trained and placed in employment during the year 1959–60 are shown in the following table:—

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE: AUSTRALIA, 1959–60.

Type.	Examined.	Accepted.	Completed Training.	Placed in Employment.	
				After Training.	Without Training.
Invalid pensioners	11,795	200	121	95	96
Widow pensioners	5	4	..	3	..
Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries	8,678	844	221	203	601
Special beneficiaries	2	..	..	..	..
Recipients of Tuberculosis allowance	517	76	56	63	32
Persons aged 14–15 years ..	166	71	39	36	42
Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost ..	129	92	3	3	69
Total	21,292	1,287	440	403	840

§ 5. Funeral Benefits.

A funeral benefit of up to £10 is payable to the person who has paid, or is liable to pay, the cost of the funeral of an age or invalid pensioner or of a claimant who, but for his death, would have been granted an age or invalid pension, or of a person who at the time of his death was receiving, or was a claimant for, a tuberculosis allowance, if he would otherwise have been qualified to receive an age or invalid pension. Where the cost of the funeral has been partly met by payment from a contributory funeral benefit fund of an organization other than a friendly society, funeral benefit is payable to the extent of the amount (not above £10) by which the cost of the funeral exceeded the amount paid from the fund. A funeral benefit is not payable to a person administering a contributory funeral benefit fund.

The following table shows the number of funeral benefits which were paid in each State and Territory for the years 1955–56 to 1959–60.

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA.

State.	Benefits Granted.				
	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.
New South Wales	13,148	13,927	12,895	14,092	14,764
Victoria	8,216	9,262	8,740	9,290	9,069
Queensland	4,501	4,830	4,565	4,880	4,891
South Australia	2,864	2,974	2,802	3,170	3,141
Western Australia	2,335	2,366	2,358	2,352	2,448
Tasmania	918	1,002	1,097	1,111	1,100
Northern Territory	6	2	6	8	3
Australian Capital Territory ..	31	28	33	58	49
Australia	32,019	34,391	32,496	34,961	35,465

§ 6. Maternity Allowances.

Maternity allowances are paid to provide financial assistance towards the expenses associated with the birth of children and are additional to the benefits provided under the Commonwealth hospital benefits scheme. They are not subject to a means test.

The allowance is £15 if the mother has no other children, £16 if she has one or two other children and £17 10s. if she has three or more other children under the age of 16 years. The amount is increased by £5 for each additional child born at a birth. An advance payment of £10 on account of a maternity allowance may be made four weeks before the expected date of birth. The balance is payable immediately after the birth. Payment may be made in respect of the birth of a still-born child, or a child which lives for less than twelve hours, if the child had developed for at least $5\frac{1}{2}$ months.

A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who, at the date of giving birth to a child, is residing in Australia, is temporarily abroad, or is on board a ship proceeding from a port in Australia or an Australian Territory to another port in Australia or another Australian Territory, or on board a ship proceeding to Australia, provided she receives no maternity benefit from the country from which she came. An alien mother may receive the allowance if she or her husband resided in Australia for at least twelve months immediately prior to the birth of the child, or if she is likely to remain in Australia. Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for maternity allowances on the same conditions as other members of the community.

The following table gives details of the amount paid in each State for the years 1955-56 to 1959-60:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: AMOUNT PAID IN EACH STATE.

(£'000.)

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over- seas.	Total.
1956	1,207	935	526	304	276	137	8	15	2	3,410
1957	1,252	949	532	319	271	131	9	17	2	3,482
1958	1,281	969	547	323	271	138	11	18	2	3,560
1959	1,266	1,020	546	328	267	139	11	20	2	3,599
1960	1,277	1,008	574	337	275	143	12	21	4	3,651

The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State or Territory during the years 1955-56 to 1959-60:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over- seas.	Total.
1956	75,591	58,385	32,764	19,036	17,180	8,328	510	961	110	212,865
1957	77,387	59,648	32,882	19,929	16,853	8,166	579	1,067	106	216,617
1958	79,220	60,666	34,000	20,001	16,829	8,509	666	1,137	121	221,149
1959	80,289	63,428	34,266	20,541	16,594	8,608	682	1,276	95	225,779
1960	81,241	62,853	35,515	21,443	17,012	8,985	767	1,311	262	229,389

The following table shows the number of claims paid in each State at the several rates of maternity allowances during the year 1959-60:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1959-60.

State or Territory.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.						Total Claims Paid.
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	Twins.			Triplets.			
				£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.	
New South Wales ..	25,570	38,095	16,670	228	429	243	2	3	1	81,241
Victoria. . .	19,882	29,513	12,673	209	365	204	3	2	2	62,853
Queensland ..	10,217	16,046	8,856	85	181	124	1	2	3	35,515
South Australia ..	6,420	10,144	4,596	70	128	83	2	..	..	21,443
Western Australia ..	4,768	8,168	3,868	44	91	72	..	1	..	17,012
Tasmania ..	2,517	4,071	2,290	36	37	34	..	..	..	8,985
Northern Territory ..	254	319	188	1	4	1	..	..	..	767
Australian Capital Territory	395	622	278	5	6	5	..	..	..	1,311
Overseas ..	98	132	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	262
Total ..	70,121	107,110	49,451	678	1,241	766	8	8	6	229,389

§ 7. Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits.

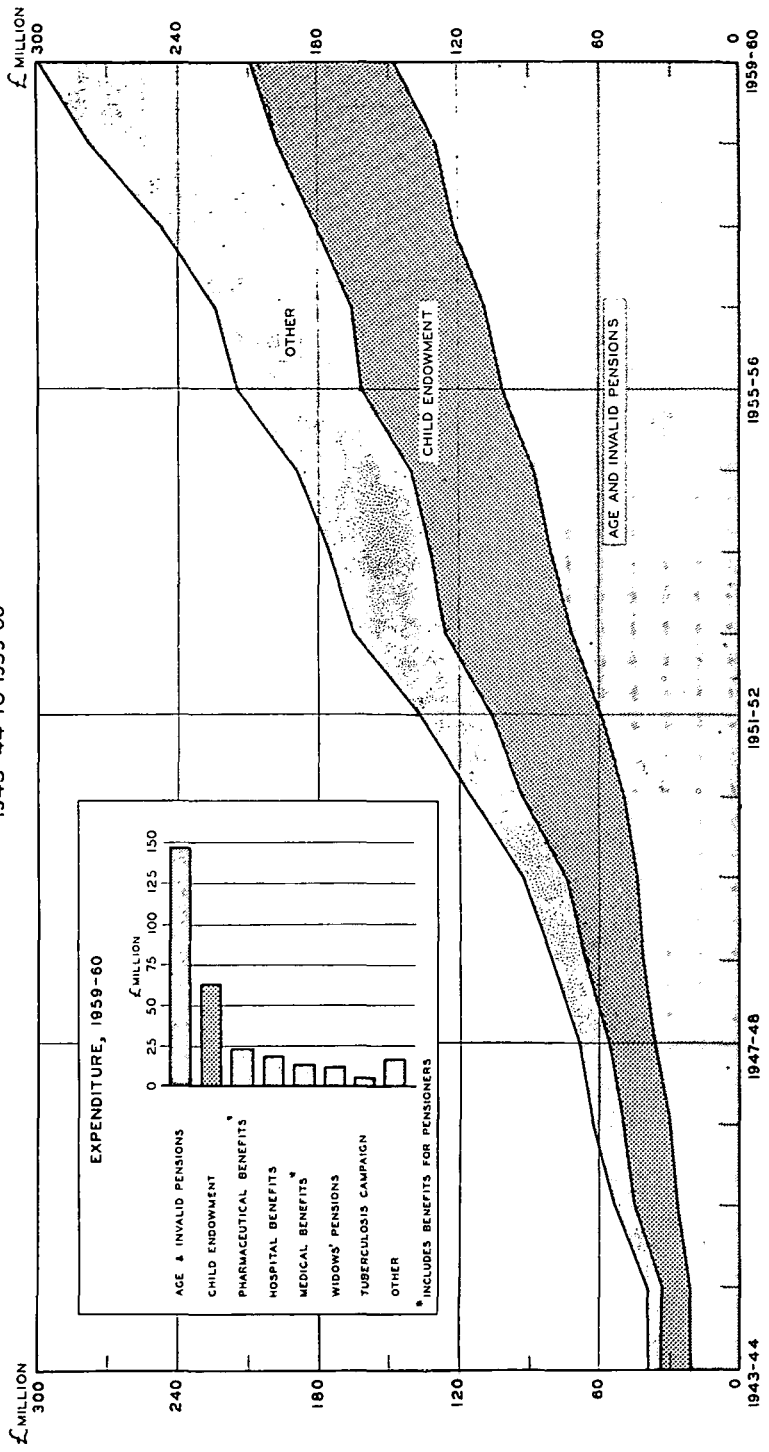
Unemployment and Sickness benefits are paid to men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age who, through unemployment, sickness or accident, suffer temporary loss of regular earnings. They must have been living in Australia during the preceding twelve months or be likely to remain permanently in Australia. A person receiving an age, invalid or widow's pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the Repatriation Act, or a tuberculosis allowance is ineligible to receive a benefit.

To qualify for an unemployment benefit, a person must establish that he is unemployed and that his unemployment is not due to his being a direct participant in a strike, that he is capable and willing to undertake suitable work, and that he has taken reasonable steps to obtain such work. Registration with the local Commonwealth District Employment Office is necessary.

To qualify for a sickness benefit, a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work because of sickness or accident and that he has thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

1943-44 TO 1959-60



A married woman is not eligible to receive a sickness benefit if it is reasonably possible for her husband to maintain her. Where her husband is able to maintain her only partially, a benefit may be paid at such rate as is considered reasonable in the circumstances. In exceptional cases, a married woman may qualify for an unemployment benefit in her own right.

Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for these benefits on the same conditions as other members of the community.

The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income, since the 17th October, 1957, have been as follows:—

Age and Marital Status of Claimant.			Maximum Weekly Rates.	Permissible Weekly Income.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Unmarried person under 18 years of age ..	..	..	1 15 0	1 0 0
Unmarried person 18–20 years of age ..	..	..	2 7 6	1 0 0
All others .. .. .	..	..	3 5 0	2 0 0

An additional benefit of £2 7s. 6d. a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and 10s. for one dependent child under 16 years of age if resident in Australia. If no allowance is paid for a dependent spouse, a similar benefit may be paid for a claimant's housekeeper, provided there are one or more children under 16 years of age in the home and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant but is not employed by him.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's other income exceeds the amount shown in the relevant line of the final column in the above table. For unemployment benefit purposes, the incomes of the claimant and his spouse are taken into account, unless they are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes, the income of the claimant only is taken into account, while any payment received from an approved friendly society or other similar approved body in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable is disregarded. "Income" does not include child endowment, or other payments for children, Commonwealth hospital and pharmaceutical benefits, or a tuberculosis allowance or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses paid. There is no means test on property.

The amount of compensation, damages or similar payment, or war pension, if paid in respect of the same incapacity as that for which sickness benefit is claimed, is deducted from the sickness benefit. If not paid in respect of the same incapacity, compensation is regarded as income and war pension is ignored.

There is a waiting period of seven days for which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable. Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service under the same conditions as invalid pensioners.

A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not receiving an age, invalid or widow's pension or a service pension, if because of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, he is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Special benefits are also paid to migrants who are in reception centres and are awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia. During this time, they receive a short instruction in English and in Australian conditions to facilitate their assimilation into the community and employment.

During the year 1959–60, special benefits were granted to 10,827 migrants at a cost of £62,286.

The following table shows the number admitted to benefit during 1959–60, the number of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1960, and the amount paid for each benefit during 1959–60.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS, 1959-60.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<i>Persons Admitted to Benefit—</i>									
Unemployment—									
Males	24,292	12,676	27,904	5,205	10,605	2,472	35	139	83,328
Females	9,453	4,959	5,328	2,454	1,884	708	24	86	24,896
Persons	33,745	17,635	33,232	7,659	12,489	3,180	59	225	108,224
Sickness—									
Males	16,783	9,997	8,030	4,041	4,215	1,518	62	142	44,788
Females	6,134	3,675	2,156	1,002	988	365	11	40	14,371
Persons	22,917	13,672	10,186	5,043	5,203	1,883	73	182	59,159
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males	616	245	711	146	63	57	3	5	1,846
Females	601	896	180	82	75	73	..	10	1,917
Persons	1,217	1,141	891	228	138	130	3	15	3,763
Migrants—									
Persons	380	9,998	41	408	..	..	..	..	10,827
<i>Total—</i>									
Males(a)	41,691	22,918	36,645	9,392	14,883	4,047	100	286	129,962
Females(a)	16,188	9,530	7,664	3,538	2,947	1,146	35	136	41,184
Persons(b)	58,259	42,446	44,350	13,338	17,830	5,193	135	422	181,973
<i>Persons on benefit at end of year—</i>									
Unemployment—									
Males	3,491	2,507	2,311	779	1,931	371	2	7	11,399
Females	2,114	1,169	753	601	362	129	1	13	5,142
Persons	5,605	3,676	3,064	1,380	2,293	500	3	20	16,541
Sickness—									
Males	2,581	1,506	997	451	554	191	4	21	6,305
Females	1,001	576	337	152	137	54	1	6	2,264
Persons	3,582	2,082	1,334	603	691	245	5	27	8,569
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males	184	124	98	50	61	12	..	..	529
Females	511	630	277	116	93	100	..	2	1,729
Persons	695	754	375	166	154	112	..	2	2,258
Migrants—									
Persons	9	39	..	5	..	..	..	..	53
<i>Total—</i>									
Males(a)	6,256	4,137	3,406	1,280	2,546	574	6	28	18,233
Females(a)	3,626	2,375	1,367	869	592	283	2	21	9,135
Persons(b)	9,891	6,511	4,773	2,154	3,138	857	8	49	27,421
<i>Benefits Paid—</i>									
Unemployment .. £	1,600,995	935,501	1,026,701	249,078	564,492	120,957	859	5,921	4,504,504
Sickness £	940,194	546,165	339,379	171,942	163,528	67,678	1,501	7,894	2,238,281
Special (b) £	138,481	202,086	88,798	36,423	23,897	19,606	174	698	510,163
<i>Total Benefits Paid b £</i>	<i>2,679,670</i>	<i>1,683,752</i>	<i>1,454,878</i>	<i>457,443</i>	<i>751,917</i>	<i>208,241</i>	<i>2,534</i>	<i>14,513</i>	<i>7,252,948</i>

(a) Excludes migrants in reception and training centres.

(b) Includes migrants in reception and training centres.

The following table shows the number of persons who were admitted to benefit, the average number receiving benefit at the end of each week and the amount paid for each benefit for Australia during each of the years 1955-56 to 1959-60:—

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number Admitted to Benefits.			Average Number of Persons on Benefit at end of each week.			Amount Paid in Benefits.		
	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a)	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a)	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (b)
1955-56 ..	37,384	55,985	19,417	3,948	7,303	2,504	£ 718,521	£ 1,472,372	£ 372,219
1956-57 ..	96,030	52,791	14,876	12,452	7,006	2,762	2,096,036	1,498,526	404,866
1957-58 ..	143,877	54,517	17,886	23,847	7,262	2,812	4,919,775	1,857,263	553,706
1958-59 ..	145,016	58,680	13,701	27,669	8,242	2,596	5,959,248	2,196,527	496,535
1959-60 ..	108,224	59,159	14,590	21,374	8,755	2,650	4,504,504	2,238,281	510,163

(a) Includes migrants in reception and training centres.

(b) Includes payments to migrants in reception and training centres.

§ 8. Widows' Pensions.

Widows' pensions are payable to the following classes of women. The rates shown have been in operation since 11th October, 1960.

Class. "A"—A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years—£273 per annum (£5 5s. a week) plus £26 per annum (10s. a week) for each child after the first in her custody, care and control.

Class. "B"—A widow who has no children under 16 years of age in her custody, care and control, and who is not less than 50 years of age or who, after having attained the age of 45 years, ceased to receive a Class "A" widow's pension because she no longer had the custody, care and control of a child—£227 10s. per annum (£4 7s. 6d. a week).

Class. "C"—A widow who is under 50 years of age and has no children under the age of 16 years in her custody, care and control, but is in necessitous circumstances within 26 weeks after the death of her husband—£4 7s. 6d. a week for not more than 26 weeks. If at the time of her husband's death the widow is pregnant, this period will be extended until the child's birth. She may then become eligible for a Class "A" widow's pension.

Widow pensioners may receive supplementary assistance of £26 per annum (10s. a week) if they pay rent and are considered to be dependent entirely on their pensions.

For classes "A" and "B", the term "widow" includes a deserted wife, a divorcee, a woman whose husband has been imprisoned for at least six months, and a woman whose husband is in a mental hospital. Certain "dependent females" may qualify for "A" "B" or "C" Class pensions.

The residential qualification is five years' continuous residence in Australia immediately prior to the date of lodgment of the claim, but this period may be reduced to one year if the widow and her husband were living permanently in Australia when he died. Certain absences count as residence.

A widow's pension is not payable to an alien, a woman receiving an age or invalid pension, a tuberculosis allowance, or a war widow's pension, a woman who has deprived herself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension, or a deserted wife or a divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband. Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for widows' pensions on the same conditions as other members of the community.

Widow's pensions are subject to a means test on income and property. The pension payable depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. These consist of her annual rate of income together with a property component equal to £1 for every complete £10 by which the value of her property is in excess of a stipulated sum. In the case of a Class "B" widow, £200 of property is exempt. A Class "A" widow has a basic exemption of £1,000 when the value of her property exceeds £2,250, but no property component is calculated where she has property of no more than £2,250 in value. A Class "A" pension is not payable where a widow has property valued at £5,550 or more; no Class "B" pension is payable where property is £4,300 or more. There is no specific means test for the Class "C" pension, which is paid only where it is evident that a widow has insufficient means of support. The types of income and property disregarded for means test purposes are the same as for age and invalid pensions.

The pension payable to a Class "A" widow may be continued until her child reaches the age of 18 years if the child continues with full-time education at a school or university, is still dependent on the widow and is not in employment.

The number of widows' pensions by class, current at 30th June, 1960, was as follows:—Class "A", 23,240; Class "B", 28,359; Class "C", 87; Class "D", 236; total, 51,922.

From 11th October, 1960, Class "D" was abolished and the women concerned became eligible for Class "A" or Class "B". Class "D" related to women whose husbands had been in prison for at least six months.

The amount paid in pensions during 1959–60 was £12,137,248. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State and Territory in the year 1959–60:—

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1960.

State or Territory.	Pensions Current.			Average Fortnightly Pension.	Amount paid in Pensions during 1958–59.	
	Class "A".	All Classes.	Total per 10,000 of Population.		Amount.	Per head of Population.
				£ s. d.		£ s. d.
New South Wales ..	9,310	20,602	54	9 6 8	4,801,827	1 5 4
Victoria ..	5,281	12,547	43	9 4 5	2,916,500	1 0 6
Queensland ..	4,151	8,340	57	9 7 9	1,999,271	1 7 7
South Australia ..	1,926	4,439	47	9 4 1	1,044,508	1 2 5
Western Australia ..	1,556	4,039	55	9 0 9	913,589	1 5 2
Tasmania ..	924	1,773	51	9 8 10	416,252	1 4 0
Northern Territory ..	33	68	31	9 3 0	9,331	0 8 10
Australian Capital Territory ..	59	114	22	9 11 2	23,940	0 9 7
Overseas ..	(a)	(a)	..	..	12,030	..
Total ..	23,240	51,922	51	9 5 8	12,137,248	1 3 10

(a) Included in figures for State in which pensioner is permanently domiciled.

§ 9. Reciprocal Agreements with Other Countries.

1. **New Zealand.**—An agreement between the governments of Australia and New Zealand for reciprocity in social services came into operation on 1st July, 1949.

The reciprocal arrangements cover age and invalid pensions, widows' pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits, and apply to both permanent and temporary changes of residence.

Residence in one country counts as residence in the other country in relation to entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies.

Persons from one country taking up permanent residence in the other country become eligible for any of the specified benefits of the new country under the same conditions (with one or two exceptions) as apply to citizens of that country.

Persons in receipt of any of the specified benefits in one country may continue to receive those benefits while temporarily absent in the other country.

2. **United Kingdom.**—A new reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia came into operation on 1st April, 1958, replacing the original agreement which operated from 7th January, 1954.

Under this agreement, residence in one country now counts as residence in the other country as the basis for entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies.

Australians going to the United Kingdom for permanent residence are treated in the United Kingdom as if they had been insured under the National Insurance Scheme while in Australia, so that they can qualify for various National Insurance benefits.

There is also provision for the safeguard of social service rights for persons going from one country to the other for temporary residence.

C. OTHER SERVICES.

§ 1. Benevolent Homes.

1. **General.**—Numerous establishments exist for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These homes are supported by government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc. In many cases, relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation of all forms of charitable aid provided by benevolent institutions is difficult because these services differ considerably.

2. **Principal Institutions.**—Particulars respecting the accommodation and the number of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 485).

3. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1958–59 are given in the following table.

BENEVOLENT HOMES: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1958–59.
(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	Australia.
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	892,314	1,055,890	486,852	119,330	177,927	318,063	3,050,376
Municipal Aid ..	..	693	..	..	..	..	693
Public Subscriptions, Legacies ..	252,261	123,622	52,571	..	740	..	1,686,512
Fees(b) ..		673,528	199,316	27,985	243,724	44,659	
Other ..		16,402	43,244	3,370	4,920	170	
Total ..	1,144,575	1,870,135	781,983	150,685	427,311	362,892	4,737,581
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	545,994	769,604	388,861	96,950	268,829	243,395	2,313,633
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	86,829	60,746	15,431	14,865	32,560	10,486	220,917
All Other ..	315,137	334,037	351,622	32,379	109,532	108,780	1,251,487
Capital (c) ..	196,615	684,929	20,369	6,491	16,390	..	924,794
Total ..	1,144,575	1,849,316	776,283	150,685	427,311	362,661	4,710,831

(a) These figures relate to the three State hospitals and homes only. (b) Includes Commonwealth hospital benefits and age and invalid pension receipts. (c) Includes such items as purchase of land, cost of new buildings and additions to buildings.

4. **The Aged Persons Homes Act.**—The Aged Persons Homes Act which operated from 16th December, 1954, was amended in October, 1957. The purpose of the Act is to encourage the provision of homes in which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching normal domestic life.

To be eligible for assistance under this Act an organization must be—

- carried on otherwise than for purposes of profit or gain to the individual members; and
- a religious organization, an organization the principal objects or purposes of which are charitable or benevolent, an organization of former members of the defence forces established in every State or a State branch of such an organization, or an organization approved by the Governor-General for the purposes of this Act.

An organization conducted or controlled by, or by persons appointed by, the Government of the Commonwealth or of a State or a local governing body established under the law of a State, is not eligible for assistance under this Act.

The Director-General of Social Services may make a grant of money to an organization as assistance towards meeting the cost of the construction or purchase of a home, including land, to be used permanently for the accommodation of aged persons. The grant is made on a £2 for £1 basis with money raised by the organization, not counting money which the organization received from a governmental body or borrowed. Before a grant is made, the Director-General must be satisfied that the sum of the money expended and the money presently available for expenditure by the organization towards the capital cost of the home, together with the amount of the grant, will be not less than the capital cost of the home. Expenditure by the Commonwealth Government was £397,994 in 1955-56, £751,136 in 1956-57, £837,895 in 1957-58, £1,767,470 in 1958-59 and £1,871,748 in 1959-60.

§ 2. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.

1. **General.**—The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, some being placed in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster-mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases, employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded out live are subject to frequent departmental inspections.

2. **Principal Institutions.**—Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 22, p. 486).

3. **Children under Government Authority.**—The following table shows the expenditure by State Departments during 1958-59 in connexion with children under their control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures refer to uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a government authority, as well as poor children whose parents obtain assistance from the government without giving up the legal right of custody.

**CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY: COST OF
MAINTENANCE, 1958-59.**
(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
Gross cost of children's relief	1,954,433	1,151,783	547,232	337,314	308,464	79,852	4,379,078
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. . .	105,050	58,918	38,583	42,931	31,933	6,204	283,619
<i>Net Cost to State</i>	<i>1,849,383</i>	<i>1,092,865</i>	<i>508,649</i>	<i>294,383</i>	<i>276,531</i>	<i>73,648</i>	<i>4,095,459</i>

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1959.

The total expenditure on children's relief in the foregoing table shows considerable variation between the States, owing to the different methods of treating assistance to mothers with dependent children. In South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, large amounts have been excluded from the total expenditure on this account, owing to the difficulty of obtaining separate particulars for allowances made in respect of the dependent children only.

§ 3. Protection of Aborigines.

For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race, there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic and receive food and clothing when they call, while others only rarely come near the stations. The aboriginal race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1959-60 was as follows (figures in brackets are for the year 1958-59):—New South Wales, £239,541 (£204,576); Victoria, £25,000 (£25,000); Queensland, £695,773 (£726,693); South Australia, £357,169 (£365,561); Western Australia, £636,224 (£591,020); Northern Territory, £979,984 (£719,695); Australian Capital Territory, £5,102 (£4,687); Australia, £2,938,793 (£2,637,232).

§ 4. Lifesaving.

There are two life saving organizations in Australia, the Royal Life Saving Society—Australia, and the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

The objects of these organizations are the prevention of death from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation; the education of the general public in methods of life saving and resuscitation of the apparently drowned or asphyxiated; technical education in water safety; the encouragement of swimming and life saving in schools and other organizations; the encouragement of all aspects of swimming and aquatics which would assist in saving lives; and the initiation of research within the field of water safety and lifesaving.

The Royal Life Saving Society operates at lakes, rivers, bay and harbour beaches, and the Surf Life Saving Association patrols surf beaches.

Numerous certificates and medallions of proficiency in various grades are awarded.

§ 5. Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has as its main object the granting of awards to all who with bravery, skill and perseverance risk their own lives in saving or attempting to save those of their fellow creatures. The classes of awards are (a) Gold Medal; (b) Silver Medal; (c) Bronze Medal; and (d) Certificate of Merit. The Clarke Medal is awarded for the outstanding case of the year, and the Rupert Wilks Trophy is awarded for the most outstanding bravery by a child under 13 years of age. About 50 awards are made annually.

§ 6. The Order of St. John.

The Priory in Australia of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem is the governing body of the various activities of the Order which comprises the St. John Ambulance Association, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Hospitallers' Clubs in all States and Commonwealth Territories.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Association teach first aid to the injured, home nursing, hygiene and child welfare.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade provide first aid at public functions.

The Hospitallers' Clubs in each State undertake the collection of funds for the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, and other duties which tend to bring together all persons interested in the work of the order.

The Order of St. John maintains ambulance transport services in some States, acts as an auxiliary to such services in other States, and provides technical reserves for the medical services of the Crown.

The Lifesaving Medal is awarded by the Order as warranted.

§ 7. Other Charitable Institutions.

Owing to the variety of names and functions of other charitable institutions, it has been found impracticable to give detailed particulars. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not particularized include homes for the deaf, dumb and blind, infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, rescue homes for females, free kindergartens, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bushfire, flood and mining accident relief funds.