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CHAPTER 13

WELFARE SERVICES

This chapter relates to welfare services other than those concerned specifically with education, health and repatriation. The latter are dealt with, in the main, in the relevant chapters of this Year Book. Apart from a summary of government expenditure on welfare services, the chapter is devoted to a description in some detail of the services provided by the Commonwealth. For information on the many important welfare services provided by State and local governments, especially in the fields of child and Aboriginal welfare, reference should be made to the Year Books or Statistical Registers of the States and the annual reports of the State departments concerned. Information on pension and superannuation schemes provided for government and semi-government employees, mine workers, parliamentarians, and employees of private business is included in the chapter Private Finance.

There are numerous welfare services provided by charitable and other non-government institutions and organisations. There are institutions providing shelter and care for needy, aged, infirm or handicapped persons, neglected children, destitute persons, wayward boys and girls, and the like. Many organisations, too, provide aid in kind (food, clothing, etc.), auxiliary medical and nursing services, and other assistance to relieve suffering and hardship. Considerable work is also done by such organisations in the rehabilitation or establishment in the community of various types of people such as prisoners and migrants, and in the prevention and alleviation of cruelty and maltreatment of any sort. A brief description of the activities of such organisations is included at the end of this chapter.

Further information on subjects dealt with in this chapter is included in the annual bulletins *Australian National Accounts* (7.1); *Public Authority Finance: Commonwealth Authorities* (5.12); *Public Authority Finance* (5.33); *Public Authority Finance: State Governments*; *Social Services* (5.37). Current and summarised information on Commonwealth social services is contained in the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* (1.3) and the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* (1.4).

Commonwealth expenditure on welfare services

This section deals with various government payments for the relief of the aged, indigent, infirm, widowed and unemployed, assistance to families, Aboriginal welfare, etc. For summary statements of cash payments to persons made by public authorities under various functional heads, see *Public Authority Finance* and other annual bulletins mentioned above. Expenditure by State governments

COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES, WELFARE: CASH BENEFITS TO PERSONS, 1971-72 (\$'000)

Service, etc.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (a)	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Abroad	Total
Age pensions	253,644	178,368	108,674	65,227	49,107	21,002	1,549	2,041	709	680,322
Invalid pensions	58,666	31,504	22,768	11,318	8,267	4,541	694	385	51	138,194
Child endowment	73,948	60,890	32,040	19,766	18,188	7,196	1,725	2,800	57	216,610
Commonwealth rehabilitation service	1,485	1,299	618	563	502	130	..	4	..	4,602
Funeral benefits	613	418	244	150	108	42	..	5	..	1,583
Maternity allowances	3,085	2,376	1,251	707	724	260	86	126	2	8,617
Tuberculosis campaign— allowances	217	157	143	48	32	33	..	..	..	630
Unemployment benefits, sickness and special benefits	15,406	11,798	6,988	4,394	4,298	1,542	154	174	..	44,754
Widows' pensions	37,383	28,689	15,739	10,458	7,180	3,842	575	626	135	104,627
Sheltered employment allowances Deserted wives' benefits	343	..	..	303	96	..	..	..	..	742
Personal care	1,258	1,970	1,002	464	981	201	..	..	..	5,876
Delivered meals	450	525	359	285	144	65	1	..	..	1,830
Emergency assistance to wool- growers(b)	118	102	29	48	28	10	..	1	..	338
Other(c)	93	4	59	8	14	5	..	3	..	187
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,167
Total welfare	446,709	318,102	189,915	113,739	89,669	38,870	4,784	6,167	954	1,213,077

(a) State totals for New South Wales and South Australia also include most of the unallocable expenditure on cash benefits to persons resident in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory respectively. (b) For details see Chapter 22, Rural Industry. (c) Expenditures on this item are unallocable and are included in total only.

on certain welfare services is shown on page 418. Commonwealth expenditure on welfare services is financed through the National Welfare Fund from general or special departmental appropriations, other trust funds, and specific purpose grants to the States. Outlay by Commonwealth Authorities on Aboriginal advancement is shown on page 417. Analyses of Commonwealth expenditure by function and economic type are given in Chapter 18—Public Authority Finance and, in more detail, in the bulletin *Public Authority Finance: Commonwealth Authorities*. The table on the previous page sets out details of welfare cash benefits to persons during the year 1971-72 and the following table shows details for the five years 1967-68 to 1971-72.

**COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES, WELFARE: CASH BENEFITS TO PERSONS
1967-68 TO 1971-72
(\$'000)**

<i>Service, etc.</i>	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
Age pensions	513,984	558,587	641,982	582,889	680,322
Invalid pensions				119,387	138,194
Child endowment	187,920	193,263	220,121	r198,442	216,610
Commonwealth rehabilitation service	1,944	2,260	2,758	3,646	4,602
Funeral benefits	1,338	1,571	1,512	1,653	1,583
Maternity allowances	7,349	7,960	8,000	8,554	8,617
Tuberculosis campaign—allowances	1,091	921	771	659	630
Unemployment benefits, sickness and special benefits	18,832	16,830	18,592	23,478	44,754
Widows' pensions	61,061	69,080	81,753	90,514	104,627
Sheltered employment allowances	104	288	436	590	742
Deserted wives' benefits	201	1,149	1,882	3,691	5,876
Personal care . . . . .	..	..	1,133	1,592	1,830
Delivered meals . . . . .	..	..	196	341	338
Emergency assistance to woolgrowers(a) . . . . .	..	..	..	21,327	187
Other	r2,273	r3,058	2,991	r3,950	4,167
Total welfare	r796,098	r854,966	r982,125	r1,060,713	1,213,077

(a) For details see Chapter 22, Rural Industry.

Commonwealth social services

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 in 1946.

Before 1947, Commonwealth social service benefits were paid under various Acts. On 1 July 1947 with the passage of the *Social Services Consolidation Act 1947*, all Acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated. The Act is at present styled the *Social Services Act 1947-1972*.

Reciprocal social services agreements with other countries

New Zealand. An agreement between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for reciprocity in social services came into operation on 3 September 1943 and was amended from 1 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 may be treated as residence in the other country in relation to entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies. Persons from one country taking up a 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.

United Kingdom. A reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia came into operation on 7 January 1954. Amendments became effective from 1 April 1958 and 1 October 1962. Under the current agreement residence in one country may be treated 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.

Social service benefits provided

The social service benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government under the *Social Services Act 1947-1972*, and the date on which each came into operation, are:

Age pension	1 July 1909
Invalid pension	14 October 1910
Allowances for wife and first child of pensioners who are invalided	8 July 1943
Allowances for second and subsequent children of pensioners who are invalided	11 October 1956
Allowances for wife and children of other age pensioners	14 October 1965
Guardians' allowances for widowed and other unmarried age and invalid pensioners with children in their care	14 October 1965
Special payments to a surviving pensioner	10 October 1968
Widows' pensions	30 June 1942
Supplementary assistance (age, invalid and widows' pensions)	15 October 1958
Supplementary allowance (long-term sickness benefit)	28 September 1970
Widows' pensions—allowances for second and sub- sequent children	2 October 1956
Funeral benefit	1 July 1943
Maternity allowance	10 October 1912
Child endowment	1 July 1941
Child endowment—student children	14 January 1964
Unemployment benefit	1 July 1945
Sickness benefit	1 July 1945
Sickness benefit (long-term)	28 September 1970
Special benefit	1 July 1945
Sheltered employment allowance	30 June 1967
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	10 December 1948
Training scheme for widow pensioners	27 September 1968
Wife's pension	5 October 1972

Age and invalid pensions

Age pensions are payable to men, sixty-five years of age and over, and women, sixty years of age and over, who have lived in Australia continuously for at least ten years, which need not be immediately prior to the date of claim for a pension. If a person has completed five years, but not ten years, continuous residence, and has lived in Australia for periods which exceed a total of ten years, the period of continuous residence otherwise required is reduced by the total of his periods of residence in Australia in excess of ten years. Any periods of absence during which a person's home remains in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances, are counted as residence, and any absence in an external Territory of the Commonwealth, while not counting as residence, does not interrupt continuity of residence in Australia. Residence in New Zealand or the United Kingdom may be treated as residence in Australia.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons, sixteen years of age and over, who have lived in Australia for a continuous period of five years (including certain absences) at any time, and who are permanently incapacitated for work to the extent of at least eighty-five per cent, or permanently blind. If the incapacity or blindness first occurred outside Australia, except during a temporary absence, the residence qualification is the same as for an age pension.

A wife's pension is payable to the wife of a pensioner not entitled, in her own right, to an age, invalid or service pension. There is no residence qualification to be met.

Current rates of pension. The maximum standard rate was increased to \$1,040 per annum (\$20.00 a week) from 5 October 1972. This is payable to a single, widowed or divorced pensioner, or a married pensioner whose spouse is not receiving a pension or a tuberculosis allowance. The standard rate

may also be paid to each of a married pensioner couple who are living apart for an indefinite period due to illness or infirmity of either or both. The maximum rate for a married pensioner couple was increased to \$1,794 per annum (\$34.50 a week) from 5 October 1972, (i.e., \$897 per annum or \$17.25 a week each). For a married person whose spouse receives a tuberculosis allowance, or a service pension, the maximum rate is also \$897 per annum (\$17.25 a week).

Additional pension for each dependent child under 16 years is payable, subject to the means test, at the rate of \$234 per annum (\$4.50 a week). Widowed or other unmarried age or invalid pensioners with a dependent child may receive a guardian's allowance up to \$4 a week, or up to \$6 a week if the child is under 6 years of age or is an invalid child requiring full-time care. Guardian's allowance is also subject to the means test. Eligibility for the additional pension for children is extended to include a child over sixteen years until he reaches twenty-one years, provided he is wholly or substantially dependent on the pensioner and is receiving full-time education at a school, college or university. Supplementary assistance of up to \$4 a week, subject to a special means test, is available to pensioners receiving the maximum standard rate pension if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging.

At 30 June 1972, 396,017 age and 96,745 invalid pensioners in the standard rate category were receiving a pension of \$18.25 a week or more and 162,300 age and invalid pensioners were in receipt of supplementary assistance. In the married rate category 241,306 age and 21,919 invalid pensioners were receiving a pension of \$16 a week or more.

On the death of one member of a married pensioner couple the surviving pensioner spouse becomes entitled to receive, for up to six fortnightly instalments, the equivalent of the two pensions that would have been paid if the spouse had not died. For the purpose of this provision the term 'pensioner' includes a person in receipt of age, invalid, wife's or service pension; a rehabilitation allowance; or a sheltered employment allowance.

A table showing the maximum rates of pension operating since 1 July 1909 at dates prior to 14 October 1965 is included on page 608 of Year Book No. 51. Details of the respective rates and allowances payable since 14 October 1965 are included in subsequent Year Books.

Means test. Age, invalid and wife's pensions (other than pensions paid to blind persons) are subject to a means test which applies to income and property. The rate of pension payable in any case depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. When calculating means as assessed assets or property owned by the applicant are equated with income by treating each complete \$20 of assets above \$400 as equivalent to an income of \$2 a year. This amount is the property component. Means as assessed may consist entirely of the property component, entirely of income, or of various combinations of property component and income. The annual maximum rate of pension is affected when means exceed the allowable sum of:

For a single, widowed or divorced person	\$1,040
For a married pensioner couple	\$1,794 (\$897 each)

The effect of the means test in the case of a single, widowed or divorced person, is to reduce the annual maximum standard rate of pension by half of the amount of any means as assessed in excess of \$1,040. No pension is payable where the value of property is \$31,600 or more (\$35,760 or more if qualified for a guardian's allowance at the lower rate and \$37,840 if qualified for the guardian's allowance at the higher rate). Supplementary assistance is reduced by the amount by which means as assessed exceed \$52. For a pensioner couple, the combined maximum married rate of pension is reduced by half of any means as assessed in excess of \$1,794. No pension is payable where the value of property is \$54,640 or more.

Certain types of income are exempted. The main exemptions 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 organisations. A pensioner's income may also be reduced by up to \$312 per annum (\$6 a week) for each dependent child under sixteen years (twenty-one years if a full-time student).

A special concession is made available to recipients of superannuation pensions and annuities, the annual rate of such payments being converted to a property equivalent for means test purposes by reference to a specific conversion factor. This conversion is to the pensioner's advantage in the majority of cases but where this is not so, the payments continue to be treated as income.

Certain types of property are disregarded. They include the permanent home of the pensioner, his furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to \$1,500) of life insurance policies, the capital value of annuities or contingent interests, and the value of 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.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1972

<i>Pensions in force</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Age—									
Males .	90,029	65,393	42,811	24,429	18,930	8,057	690	723	251,062
Females .	217,903	156,311	89,189	56,210	41,593	17,611	902	1,912	581,631
Persons .	307,932	221,704	132,000	80,639	60,523	25,668	1,592	2,635	832,693
Invalid—									
Males .	31,658	18,546	12,361	6,643	4,704	2,592	403	226	77,133
Females .	25,602	14,029	10,464	5,489	3,781	1,906	240	174	61,685
Persons .	57,260	32,575	22,825	12,132	8,485	4,498	643	400	138,818

NEW PENSIONERS, BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS: AUSTRALIA, 1971-72

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Age pensioners</i>			<i>Invalid pensioners</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females(a)</i>	<i>Persons(a)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	
Single(b) . . .	3,225	4,769	7,994	5,954	3,797	9,751	17,745
Married . . .	21,227	25,471	46,698	9,241	5,445	14,686	61,384
Widowed . . .	3,178	11,098	14,276	745	1,204	1,949	16,225
Divorced . . .	638	976	1,614	647	518	1,165	2,779
Total . . .	28,268	42,314	70,582	16,587	10,964	27,551	98,133

(a) Includes transfers from wives' allowance to age pension. (b) Includes married but permanently separated.

The average age of new age pensioners was 68.3 years for men and 65.9 years for women.

NEW INVALID PENSIONERS, BY AGE GROUP: AUSTRALIA, 1971-72

		<i>16-19 years</i>	<i>20-44 years</i>	<i>45-59 years</i>	<i>60-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males .	number	1,233	3,019	6,552	5,358	425	16,587
Females .	number	1,135	2,428	6,985	233	183	10,964
Persons .	number	2,368	5,447	13,537	5,591	608	27,551
	Per cent	9	20	49	20	2	100

NOTE. Persons at or above the qualifying age for age pensions, when granted invalid pensions, are generally those with insufficient residence to qualify for age pension.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1967-68 TO 1971-72

Year	Pensioners at end of year				Total payments during year(b)	Average weekly pension as at end of year		
	Age		Invalid	Total		Age(c)	Invalid (c)	Age and invalid combined (c)
	Number	Rate(a)						
			No.	No.	\$'000	\$	\$	\$
1967-68	(d)682,265	546	(d)114,745	(d)797,010	513,984	12.22	13.37	12.39
1968-69	(e)705,311	555	(e)121,744	(e)827,055	558,587	13.00	14.70	13.26
1969-70	779,007	602	133,766	912,773	641,982	13.61	15.70	13.91
1970-71	807,711	615	134,075	941,786	702,276	14.36	16.54	14.67
1971-72	832,693	621	138,818	971,511	818,517	16.38	18.98	16.75

(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 allowances and supplementary assistance. (c) Includes supplementary assistance, additional pensions for children, and guardian's allowance, where applicable. (d) The 1967-68 figures are adjusted by reducing the number of invalid pensioners by 3,178 and increasing the number of age pensioners by 1,485 following the introduction of computer processing in New South Wales. (e) The 1968-69 figures are adjusted by reducing the number of invalid pensioners by 1,583 and increasing the number of age pensioners by 1,223 following the introduction of computer processing in Victoria.

Widows' pensions

Rates and conditions. Widows' pensions are payable according to the following classes. The rates shown are those payable from 10 October 1972 when widows' pensions were increased.

Class 'A'. A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more eligible children under the age of sixteen years or eligible student child—The maximum amount payable is the standard rate pension of \$1,040 per annum (\$20 a week) and a mother's allowance of up to \$208 per annum (\$4 a week) which is increased to \$312 per annum (\$6 a week) if caring for a child under six years of age or an invalid child requiring full-time care. In addition, extra pension of \$234 per annum (\$4.50 a week) for each child under sixteen years is payable subject to the means test. Payment may be made for a child over sixteen years until he or she reaches twenty-one years, if he or she is wholly or substantially dependent on the widow and is receiving full-time education at a school, college or university.

Class 'B'. A widow who has no eligible children under sixteen years of age or full-time student children in her custody, care and control, and who is not less than fifty years of age or who, after having attained the age of forty-five years, ceased to receive a Class 'A' widow's pension because she no longer had the custody, care and control of a child—The maximum amount payable is \$897 per annum (\$17.25 a week).

Class 'C'. A widow who is under fifty years of age and has no eligible children under the age of sixteen years, or full-time student children, in her custody, care and control, but is in necessitous circumstances within the twenty-six weeks after the death of her husband—\$17.25 a week for not more than twenty-six weeks after the death of her husband. If the widow is pregnant this period may 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 up to \$208 per annum (\$4 a week), subject to a special means test, if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging.

For classes 'A' and 'B' the term 'widow' includes a wife who has been deserted by her husband without just cause for a period of at least six months; 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 also may qualify for 'A', 'B' or 'C' Class pensions.

A period of residence in Australia before claiming pension is not required if a woman and her husband were residing permanently in Australia when she became a widow. In other circumstances, five years continuous residence immediately preceding lodgment of the claim is required, but this is waived in the case of a woman whose husband has died overseas if she has resided continuously in Australia for ten years at any time and returns to Australia to live.

A widow's pension is not payable to a woman receiving an age or invalid pension, a sheltered employment allowance, a tuberculosis allowance, a war widow's pension, nor to a deserted wife or a divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband.

Means test. Widows' pensions are subject to a means test on income and property. The rate of pension payable in any case depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. When calculating the means as assessed of a claimant for Class 'A' widow's pension, no amount in respect of property is taken into account where the value of the widow's property is \$4,500 or less. If the value of property exceeds \$4,500 the widow's total assets or property are equated with income by treating each complete \$20 of assets above \$2,000 as equivalent to an income of \$2 a year. This amount is the property component. Means as assessed may consist entirely of the property component, entirely of income, or of various combinations of the property component and income. The method for calculating the means as assessed of a claimant for Class 'B' widow's pension is the same as for single, widowed or divorced claimants for age or invalid pension (*see* page 402). In the case of a Class 'A' widow the maximum rate of pension plus the appropriate mother's allowance and additional pension for children, are affected when the widow's means as assessed exceed the allowable sum of \$1,040. The annual maximum standard rate of pension plus the allowances mentioned above are reduced by half of the amount of any means as assessed in excess of \$1,040. No pension is payable where the widow has property valued at \$37,360 or more, or if caring for a child under six years of age or an invalid child requiring full-time care, where she has property valued at \$39,440 or more. For a Class 'B' widow the annual maximum rate of pension is reduced by half of the amount of any means as assessed in excess of \$1,040. No pension is payable where the widow has property valued at \$28,740 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. Supplementary assistance is reduced by the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$52.

The average age of new widow pensioners admitted during 1971-72 was: Class 'A', 36.0 years; Class 'B', 57.2 years; Class 'C', 43.0 years; and for all classes, 43.8 years.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS: STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1971-72

State, Territory, etc.	Number admitted — all classes (a)	Pensions current at end of year				Average weekly pension at end of year (b)	Amount paid in pensions during year (b) (c)
		Class 'A'	Class 'B'	Class 'C'	All classes		
New South Wales	6,634	17,711	15,213	37	32,961	23.25	\$ 37,383
Victoria	5,734	13,995	11,782	10	25,787	23.26	28,689
Queensland	2,591	7,306	6,332	14	13,652	23.69	15,739
South Australia	1,872	4,898	4,459	6	9,363	23.06	10,458
Western Australia	1,706	3,368	3,417	10	6,795	22.44	7,180
Tasmania	631	1,923	1,281	1	3,205	24.80	3,842
Northern Territory	98	267	180	1	448	26.80	575
Australian Capital Territory	147	343	229	1	573	23.63	626
Abroad . . . . .	..	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	..	135
Total	19,413	49,811	42,893	80	92,784	23.31	104,627

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another. (b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances. (c) Includes payments to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. (d) Included in the figures for the State or Territory in which the pensioner is normally domiciled.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1967-68 TO 1971-72

Year	Number admitted — all classes (a)	Pensions current at end of year				Average weekly pension at end of year (b)	Amount paid in pensions during year (b) (c)
		Class 'A'	Class 'B'	Class 'C'	All classes		
1967-68	16,104	(d)35,899	(d)39,065	105	(d)75,069	15.79	\$ 61,061
1968-69	15,993	38,038	39,768	91	77,897	17.63	69,080
1969-70	22,466	44,064	42,771	86	86,921	18.96	81,753
1970-71	18,223	47,146	43,157	96	90,399	19.72	90,514
1971-72	19,413	49,811	42,893	80	92,784	23.31	104,627

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another. (b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances. (c) Includes payments to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. (d) During 1967-68, a reduction of 769 Class 'A' and 233 Class 'B' pensioners was made following the introduction of computer processing in New South Wales.

For details of training scheme for widow pensioners, *see* page 413.

Funeral benefits

A benefit of up to \$40 is payable to an eligible age, invalid or widow pensioner who is liable for the funeral costs of another such deceased pensioner, a deceased child or a deceased spouse; a benefit of up to \$20 is payable to any (other) person liable for the funeral costs of a deceased age or invalid pensioner in respect of whose burial a funeral benefit may be granted.

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED: STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1966-67 TO 1971-72

(Number)

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
New South Wales	18,567	17,092	21,830	20,215	22,430	20,802
Victoria	12,386	12,292	13,897	12,844	14,881	13,973
Queensland	7,188	7,129	7,930	7,754	8,505	8,046
South Australia	4,031	4,531	4,855	4,643	4,937	4,976
Western Australia	3,129	3,151	3,397	3,442	3,741	3,649
Tasmania	1,347	1,345	1,438	1,437	1,408	1,474
Northern Territory	2	7	5	15	8	7
Australian Capital Territory	108	122	136	148	175	178
Abroad	6	3	3	4	3	8
Total	46,764	45,672	53,491	50,502	56,088	53,113

Total cost of funeral benefits granted during 1971-72 was \$1,582,781.

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 health scheme. They are not subject to a means test.

A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who gives birth to a child if she resides, or intends to reside permanently in Australia and gives birth to the child in Australia, and to a woman who gives birth to a child on board a ship travelling to Australia if she intends to reside permanently in Australia, provided she receives no benefit similar to a maternity allowance from the country from which she came. A woman who gives birth to a child during a temporary absence from Australia may also be eligible. 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 permanently. 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 five and a half months.

Rates of allowance. The allowance is \$30 if the mother has no other children under sixteen, \$32 if she has one or two other children under sixteen, and \$35 if she has three or more other children under sixteen. In the case of multiple births the allowance is increased by \$10 for each additional child born. An advance payment of \$20 may be made four weeks before the expected date of birth. The balance is payable immediately after the birth.

**MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE
STATES AND TERRITORIES, ETC., 1971-72**

(Number)

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	<i>Single births</i>			<i>Multiple births</i>							<i>Total claims paid</i>	
	<i>\$30</i>	<i>\$32</i>	<i>\$35</i>	<i>Twins</i>		<i>Triplets</i>			<i>Other</i>			
				<i>\$40</i>	<i>\$42</i>	<i>\$45</i>	<i>\$50</i>	<i>\$52</i>	<i>\$55</i>	<i>\$60</i>	<i>\$112</i>	
New South Wales	39,811	44,836	11,804	326	504	184	3	3	1	1	1	97,474
Victoria	28,763	35,668	9,791	262	420	173	2	3	..	..	..	75,082
Queensland	14,832	17,536	6,539	102	170	67	..	..	..	..	..	39,246
South Australia	8,975	10,693	2,467	74	140	37	..	4	..	..	..	22,390
Western Australia	9,152	10,585	2,882	64	117	39	..	2	1	..	..	22,842
Tasmania	3,025	3,850	1,250	21	47	17	..	..	1	..	..	8,211
Northern Territory	971	1,168	562	9	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	2,721
Australian Capital Territory	1,588	1,899	442	16	26	9	1	..	..	..	..	3,981
Abroad	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Total	107,176	126,235	35,737	874	1,433	528	6	12	3	1	1	272,006

**MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID, AUSTRALIA
1967-68 TO 1971-72**

Year	Claims paid			Amount paid
	Single births	Multiple births	Total	
1966-67	226,339	2,446	228,785	\$'000 7,294
1967-68	228,324	2,452	230,776	7,349
1968-69	248,599	2,688	251,287	7,960
1969-70	249,149	2,755	251,904	8,000
1970-71	267,235	2,817	270,052	8,554
1971-72	269,148	2,858	272,006	8,617

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 sixteen years or of a full-time student child over sixteen but under twenty-one years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates, is qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each such child. Full-time student children are those receiving full-time education at a school, college or university and who are not in employment or engaged in work on their own account. 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 claimant and the child were not born here, but this requirement is waived if the Department of Social Security 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.

Rates of endowment. Since 12 October 1971 the weekly rates have been: children under sixteen years—50 cents for the first or only child; \$1.00 for the second; \$2.00 for the third; and then increases of 25 cents for each subsequent child, making \$2.25 for the fourth, \$2.50 for the fifth and so on. For each eligible student child the rate is \$1.50. The rate payable for each child under sixteen years in an approved institution is \$2.00 a week.

Table 10 *Number of claims and endowed children—children under sixteen years.* The number of families receiving child endowment at 30 June 1972 in respect of children under sixteen years was 1,843,478 an increase of 45,850 or 2.55 per cent during the year.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS
STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1972**

State, Territory, etc.	Family groups			Approved institutions		Total endowed children under 16 years
	Claims in force	Endowed children under 16 years		Number (a)	Endowed child inmates under 16 years	
		Number	Average number per claim			
New South Wales	651,033	1,373,981	2.11	135	5,824	1,379,805
Victoria	511,947	1,106,485	2.16	128	5,673	1,112,158
Queensland	260,419	584,743	2.25	40	1,800	586,543
South Australia	170,599	362,830	2.13	64	1,545	364,375
Western Australia	153,600	338,855	2.21	77	4,600	343,455
Tasmania	57,566	128,946	2.24	23	447	129,393
Northern Territory	13,954	32,933	2.36	16	277	33,210
Australian Capital Territory	24,201	52,698	2.18	2	33	52,731
Abroad	159	309	1.94	..	..	309
Total	1,843,478	3,981,780	2.16	485	20,199	4,001,979

(a) All institutions approved for receipt of endowment.

The following table shows, as at 30 June 1972, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children under sixteen years in family groups, 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 any other children in the custody, care and control of the claimant.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS IN FAMILY GROUPS
TOTAL, 30 JUNE 1972**

<i>Number of endowed children under 16 years in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed children under 16 years</i>	<i>Number of endowed children under 16 years in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed children under 16 years</i>
1	635,494	635,494	9	948	8,532
2	632,668	1,265,336	10	277	2,770
3	348,137	1,044,411	11	107	1,177
4	146,507	586,028	12	40	480
5	50,630	253,150	13	21	273
6	19,162	114,972	14	2	28
7	6,774	47,418	15 or more	3	47
8	2,708	21,664	Total	1,843,478	3,981,780

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED STUDENT CHILDREN
STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1972**

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	<i>Family groups</i>			<i>Approved institutions</i>		<i>Total endowed student children</i>
	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed student children</i>		<i>Number(a)</i>	<i>Endowed student child inmates</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Average number per claim</i>			
New South Wales	76,087	83,810	1.10	32	146	83,956
Victoria	69,910	78,216	1.12	30	138	78,354
Queensland	18,504	20,336	1.10	9	91	20,427
South Australia	21,251	23,306	1.10	18	145	23,451
Western Australia	14,039	15,390	1.10	39	62	15,452
Tasmania	5,587	6,207	1.11	5	6	6,213
Northern Territory(b)	664	720	1.08	2	2	722
Australian Capital Territory	3,397	3,913	1.15	..	..	3,913
Abroad	27	33	1.22	..	..	33
Total	209,466	231,931	1.11	135	590	232,521

(a) Included with approved institutions in second table on page 407. (b) Endowment payments are now being made direct to Aboriginal families instead of through institutions.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED STUDENT CHILDREN IN FAMILY GROUPS
TOTAL, 30 JUNE 1972**

<i>Number of endowed student children in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed student children</i>	<i>Number of endowed student children in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed student children</i>
1	188,273	188,273	4	47	188
2	19,970	39,940	5 or more	1	5
3	1,175	3,525	Total	209,466	231,931

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS
LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1971-72**
(\$'000)

State, Territory, etc.	Annual liability at 30 June 1972			Total payments to endowees and institutions during year(a)
	Family groups	Approved institutions	Total	
New South Wales	72,623	606	73,229	67,253
Victoria	59,681	590	60,271	54,786
Queensland	32,861	187	33,048	30,184
South Australia	19,160	161	19,321	17,999
Western Australia	18,442	478	18,920	17,056
Tasmania	7,172	46	7,218	6,735
Northern Territory(b)	1,958	29	1,987	1,683
Australian Capital Territory	2,822	3	2,825	2,540
Abroad	16	..	16	(c)57
Total	214,734	2,101	216,835	198,292

(a) See footnote (b) to summary table below. (b) Endowment payments are now being made direct to Aboriginal families instead of through institutions. (c) Includes expenditure for endowed student children; separate figures are not available.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: STUDENT CHILDREN, LIABILITY, AND
EXPENDITURE, STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1971-72**
(\$'000)

State, Territory, etc.	Annual liability at 30 June 1972			Total payments to endowees and institutions during year
	Family groups	Approved institutions	Total	
New South Wales	6,537	11	6,548	6,695
Victoria	6,101	11	6,112	6,104
Queensland	1,586	7	1,593	1,856
South Australia	1,818	11	1,829	1,767
Western Australia	1,200	5	1,205	1,132
Tasmania	484	1	485	461
Northern Territory	56	..	56	42
Australian Capital Territory	305	..	305	260
Abroad	3	..	3	(a)
Total	18,091	46	18,137	18,317

(a) Included in preceding table showing expenditure for endowed children under sixteen years; separate figures are not available.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1966-67 TO 1971-72

Year	At end of year					
	Family group claims in force					
	For children under 16 years(a)	For student children(a)	Approved institutions	Total endowed children	Annual liability for endowment (b)	Total payments during year (b)
1966-67	1,640,390	151,623	487	3,834,917	\$'000 185,940	\$'000 (c)199,282
1967-68	1,669,629	158,488	491	3,890,853	196,397	187,920
1968-69	1,701,914	187,500	493	3,996,042	202,034	193,263
1969-70	1,749,734	194,576	456	4,079,378	205,065	(c)220,143
1970-71	1,797,628	196,999	469	4,155,930	207,499	198,467
1971-72	1,843,478	209,466	485	4,234,500	234,972	216,610

(a) Claims by families with children under sixteen and student children are shown in both columns. Information on the number of families having such dual claims is not available. (b) 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. (c) Expenditure for this year includes five twelve-weekly payments for endowed children under 16 years.

Unemployment and sickness benefits

Unemployment and sickness benefits are paid to males over sixteen and under sixty-five years of age, and females over sixteen and under sixty years of age, who are unemployed or who are temporarily incapacitated for work and thereby suffer loss of income. They must have been living in Australia during the preceding twelve months or be likely to remain permanently in Australia. There is a means test on income. A person receiving an age, invalid or widow's pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the *Repatriation Act 1920-1972* or a tuberculosis allowance, is ineligible to receive a benefit.

For unemployment benefit purposes, a person must establish that he is unemployed, 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 for employment with the Commonwealth District Employment Office is necessary. For sickness benefit purposes, 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. 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.

Rates of benefit. The maximum weekly rates of unemployment and sickness benefit payable and the permissible income in respect of benefit periods which commenced on or after 19 February 1972 are as follows.

	<i>Maximum weekly rate</i>	<i>Permissible weekly income</i>
	\$	\$
Adult (21 and over) or married minor	17.00	6.00
Unmarried person, aged 18-20 years	11.00	3.00
Unmarried person, aged 16-17 years	7.50	3.00

The adult rate of benefit is payable to unmarried minors having no parent living in Australia.

Additional benefit of \$8 a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and \$4.50 a week for each child under sixteen years of age in a beneficiary's care. Additional benefit, at the same rate as that for a dependent spouse, may be paid where a woman is keeping house for a claimant who has one or more children under sixteen years of age in his care. It may be granted only if no such benefit is payable for his wife, and the housekeeper is substantially dependent on him but not employed by him.

After six consecutive weekly payments, sickness benefit may be increased to the appropriate long-term rate shown in the table below if the person receiving benefit is not in hospital, or is in hospital but has one or more dependants. The rates of benefits shown, have applied since 27 September 1972.

	<i>Maximum weekly rate</i>	<i>Permissible weekly income</i>
	\$	\$
Adult (21 and over) or married minor or unmarried minor with no parent in Australia	20.00	6.00
Unmarried person, aged 16-20 years	13.00	3.00

Additional benefit for dependants continues at the same rate as ordinary sickness benefit and a supplementary allowance of up to \$4.00 a week may be paid to beneficiaries if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's other income exceeds the amount of permissible income. For unemployment benefit purposes the income of the spouse is also taken into account unless the claimant and his spouse are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes the income 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 health benefits and payments from registered benefit organisations, a tuberculosis allowance, or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses. The supplementary allowance is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's other income exceeds \$1.00 a week.

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 during which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable, but this waiting period is not required more than once in any period of thirteen weeks.

Special benefit

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, a service pension or a tuberculosis allowance and who, because of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Recipients of special benefits include, among others, persons caring for invalid parents, and persons ineligible for age, invalid or widow's pensions because of lack of residence qualifications.

Special benefits are also paid to immigrants who are in Commonwealth centres or hostels 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.

No means test or residence requirement is laid down but there is an overriding requirement that a person must be suffering hardship to be granted a special benefit.

The maximum rate of special benefit is the same as for unemployment benefit.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS, AND SPECIAL BENEFITS STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971-72(a)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Number admitted to benefit during year—									
Unemployment—									
Males	56,632	48,564	31,599	22,073	27,025	6,279	788	757	193,717
Females	18,172	14,326	11,492	8,235	6,334	2,695	128	318	61,700
Persons	74,804	62,890	43,091	30,308	33,359	8,974	916	1,075	255,417
Sickness—									
Males	24,392	16,805	10,882	5,843	5,757	2,459	420	342	66,900
Females	6,644	4,528	2,363	1,482	1,271	505	64	122	16,979
Persons	31,036	21,333	13,245	7,325	7,028	2,964	484	464	83,879
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males	644	197	215	72	72	37	2	4	1,243
Females(b)	4,957	2,883	2,000	949	870	381	62	102	12,204
Persons	5,601	3,080	2,215	1,021	942	418	64	106	13,447
Immigrants—									
Persons	3,621	159	368	550	2	..	..	..	4,700
Total—									
Males(c)	81,668	65,566	42,696	27,988	32,854	8,775	1,210	1,103	261,860
Females(c)	29,773	21,737	15,855	10,666	8,475	3,581	254	542	90,883
Persons(d)	115,062	87,462	58,919	39,204	41,331	12,356	1,464	1,645	357,443
Persons on benefit at end of year—									
Unemployment—									
Males	9,331	8,176	3,354	3,528	4,836	1,087	24	56	30,392
Females	3,929	2,738	1,528	1,363	987	610	2	32	11,189
Persons	13,260	10,914	4,882	4,891	5,823	1,697	26	88	41,581
Sickness—									
Males	4,341	2,954	1,597	928	738	339	24	25	10,946
Females	1,096	790	378	305	217	89	3	3	2,881
Persons	5,437	3,744	1,975	1,233	955	428	27	28	13,827
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males	193	54	36	11	27	5	1	3	330
Females(b)	1,419	985	788	255	252	133	17	18	3,867
Persons	1,612	1,039	824	266	279	138	18	21	4,197
Immigrants—									
Persons	117	..	4	13	..	..	..	..	134
Total—									
Males(c)	13,865	11,184	4,987	4,467	5,601	1,431	49	84	41,668
Females(c)	6,444	4,513	2,694	1,923	1,456	832	22	53	17,937
Persons(d)	20,426	15,697	7,685	6,403	7,057	2,263	71	137	59,739
Benefits paid during year—									
Unemployment . . \$'000	7,949	6,721	4,352	2,930	2,945	966	73	60	25,997
Sickness \$'000	6,243	4,435	2,166	1,243	1,159	497	63	100	15,906
Special(d) . . . \$'000	1,214	643	470	220	194	79	18	14	2,851
Total benefits paid . \$'000	15,406	11,799	6,988	4,393	4,297	1,542	154	174	44,754

(a) Excludes a small number of persons receiving unemployment benefits in outlying areas. (b) Since June 1968, special benefits, instead of sickness or unemployment benefits, became payable for confinement cases. (c) Excludes immigrants in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia. (d) Includes immigrants in the category described in footnote (c).

**UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS, AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA
1966-67 TO 1971-72**

Year	Number admitted to benefit during year			Average number of persons on benefit at end of each week			Amount paid in benefits		
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)
1966-67	151,024	72,276	9,340	20,650	10,108	2,413	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1967-68	158,133	72,924	11,615	21,543	9,935	2,532	11,186	6,611	1,247
1968-69	132,914	63,024	(b)21,928	17,818	8,407	(b)4,307	11,242	6,290	1,300
1969-70	109,383	66,766	23,129	13,212	8,572	4,445	9,268	5,531	(b)2,031
1970-71	137,963	73,601	22,982	14,979	9,524	4,293	4,445	7,146	2,578
1971-72	255,417	83,879	18,147	29,110	11,927	3,968	10,795	10,262	2,420
							25,997	15,906	2,851

(a) Includes immigrants in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia.
(b) Since June 1968, special benefits instead of sickness or unemployment benefits, became payable for confinement cases.

Sheltered employment allowance

This allowance was introduced on 30 June 1967 as an alternative to an invalid pension. It is available to disabled employees engaged in approved sheltered employment who have been receiving invalid pension or are likely to become medically qualified for such pension if not provided with sheltered employment.

The maximum rate of the allowance is the same as the maximum rate of invalid pension. Additional benefits such as wife's pension and additional pension for children that would be paid if the person were an invalid pensioner are added to the sheltered employment allowance to form one composite payment. The means test is the same as for invalid pensions.

In the year ended 30 June 1972, one workshop was approved under the *Social Services Act 1947-1972* to pay sheltered employment allowances on behalf of the Department of Social Security. At 30 June 1972 thirteen workshops were paying the allowances to 923 disabled employees. Employees in other sheltered workshops continued to receive invalid pensions. Expenditure during the year 1971-72 was \$741,637.

Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service was 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 service is available to invalid and widow pensioners, persons receiving unemployment, sickness or special benefits, national servicemen who are disabled at time of discharge but are ineligible for rehabilitation assistance from the Repatriation Department, persons receiving tuberculosis allowances, and persons aged fourteen or fifteen who, without treatment and training, would be likely to qualify for an invalid pension on reaching the age of sixteen years. 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 \$4.00 a week, is paid instead. With an invalid pensioner, or a sickness, unemployment, or special beneficiary, the rehabilitation allowance is equivalent to and calculated in the same manner as an invalid pension. For 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 connection with treatment, training or attendance for an interview or for medical examination may also be paid. Necessary artificial replacements, surgical aids and appliances may be provided, free of charge, to a person receiving treatment and training or who needs them to assist him to engage in a suitable vocation after the discontinuance of his treatment and training or who needs them otherwise to assist in his rehabilitation. He may also be provided with books, equipment and tools of trade costing up to \$80 in any period of twelve months. Where books, equipment and tools of trade provided to assist a person to engage in a suitable vocation are retained by him, he is liable to repay the cost but is not required to make repayment until after he has commenced employment. The repayment may be made by instalments. 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.

People who become disabled while working for the Commonwealth Government and who are covered by the Compensation (Commonwealth Employees) Act also qualify for a rehabilitation service. Disabled persons who cannot qualify for the free service may pay for rehabilitation themselves or they may be sponsored by State Government or private organisations.

Numbers dealt with by the service

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE: AUSTRALIA, 1971-72

Class of beneficiary	Referred	Accepted	Com- pleted training	Placed in employment		Expendi- ture during year \$'000	
				After training	Without training		
Invalid pensioners	(a)5,712	344	116	104	165	} n.a.	
Widow pensioners	13	3	..	..	..
Unemployment and sickness bene- ficiaries	20,426	1,103	213	188	589		
Special beneficiaries	15	1	..	2	..		
Recipients of tuberculosis allowances	7	5	6	3	3		
Persons whose rehabilitation is con- tinued under Section 135P of the Social Services Act(b)	2	2	..	..	1
Persons provided with rehabilitation under Section 135s of the Social Services Act(c)	214	155	12	20	125		
Persons aged 14-15 years	155	59	23	23	31		
Total	26,544	1,672	370	340	914		3,945

(a) Does not include applicants for invalid pension where pension eligibility is not determined; there were 6,605 cases in 1971-72. (b) Persons receiving invalid pensions, etc., when accepted for rehabilitation and who, on becoming ineligible for the pension, etc., are provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost. (c) Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost by another authority.

Of the 1,672 persons accepted during 1971-72, 76 per cent were under forty years of age. The average number undergoing rehabilitation at the end of each month during the year was 1,117.

Training scheme for widow pensioners

In September 1968 a scheme was introduced to help widow pensioners acquire vocational skills which will enable them to undertake gainful employment. Training may take the form of refresher courses or it may involve training for new skills. During training the widow continues to receive her pension for as long as she remains eligible. In addition to pension, she may qualify for a training allowance of \$4 a week and a living-away-from-home allowance of \$5 a week. The cost of tuition fees and fares may also be met; and books, equipment, appliances and tools of trade necessary during training may be supplied free of charge up to the value of \$80 in any period of twelve months. A loan of up to \$400 is available in certain circumstances to enable equipment to be purchased for employment at home. Of the 2,300 applications received during 1971-72, 1,702 were accepted for training and of this number 1,512 commenced training. During the year 1,390 completed training and 862 were placed in employment. Expenditure during the year was \$656,195.

Commonwealth assistance to welfare organisations

The Aged Persons Homes Act 1954-1972 is designed to encourage the provision of homes in which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching normal domestic life.

To be eligible for assistance under the Act an organisation must be:

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

An organisation conducted or controlled by, or by persons appointed by, the Government of the Commonwealth or of a State is not eligible for assistance under the Act.

The Director-General of the Department of Social Security may make a grant of money to an organisation 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 basis of \$2 for each \$1 raised by the organisation (\$1 for each \$1 from 1954 to 1957), not counting money which the organisation received from a governmental body (other than a local governing body) or borrowed.

Before a grant is made the Director-General must be satisfied that the sum of the money expended and the money at present available for expenditure by the organisation 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.

The following table gives information regarding grants approved during 1971-72. The amounts granted include new grants approved in 1971-72 together with adjustments made during the year in respect of grants originally approved in earlier years.

AGED PERSONS HOMES: GRANTS AND AMOUNTS APPROVED, AND BEDS PROVIDED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971-72

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total
Grants approved	No.	66	55	38	35	31	14	2	..	241
Amounts	\$'000	9,749	4,664	2,867	2,889	3,001	486	136	..	23,792
Beds provided	No.	1,838	943	619	579	657	101	23	..	4,760

The following table gives information regarding grants approved for each of the years 1967-68 to 1971-72. The amounts granted in each year include new grants approved in that year together with adjustments made during the year in respect of grants originally approved in earlier years.

AGED PERSONS HOMES: GRANTS AND AMOUNTS APPROVED, AND BEDS PROVIDED AUSTRALIA 1967-68 TO 1971-72

Year	Grants approved		Beds provided
	Number	Amount (\$'000)	Number
1967-68	170	10,220	2,831
1968-69	193	12,704	3,342
1969-70	184	13,576	3,305
1970-71	235	18,972	4,136
1971-72	241	23,792	4,760

Since the commencement of the Act in December 1954, 2,511 grants amounting to \$148,762,411 have been approved, and accommodation has been provided for 44,818 aged persons.

The Aged Persons Homes Act also provides a *personal care subsidy* of \$10 a week for persons of eighty years of age or over who receive approved personal care while living in hostel type accommodation provided by organisations eligible under the Aged Persons Homes Act. The following table gives details of the premises approved, payments made and number of residents aged eighty years or over residing in the approved premises, at 30 June 1972.

AGED PERSONS HOMES GRANTS, PERSONAL CARE SUBSIDY: STATES, 30 JUNE 1972

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Number of approved premises	88	103	64	52	32	19	1	1	360
Number of qualified residents	1,549	2,094	1,278	1,035	441	260	3	5	6,665
Subsidy paid	\$ 449,840	525,000	359,380	284,840	143,780	65,320	740	680	1,829,580

The *Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act 1967-1970* superseded the *Disabled Persons Accommodation Act 1963*. Under the latter Act, which was in operation from 25 November 1963 to 30 June 1967, total grants of \$372,118 had been approved. The new Act, which came into operation on 30 June 1967 and was amended on 26 October 1970, provides for subsidies of \$2 for \$1 to eligible organisations towards the capital cost of sheltered workshops, the equipment for them, and accommodation for disabled people employed in sheltered workshops or in normal industry. The Act covers

the erection of buildings and the purchase of existing buildings. In both cases the cost of land is included in the capital cost as is the cost of any necessary conversion or extension of an existing building. The subsidy may also be paid towards the rental, for up to three years, where rented premises are used to provide sheltered employment. A training fee of \$500 is payable to sheltered workshop organisations in respect of each handicapped person who enters and remains in normal employment for twelve months following a period of at least six months training provided by the organisation. In addition, a subsidy of up to \$1 for \$1 is payable towards the salaries of certain sheltered workshop accommodation unit staff (such as supervisory staff, doctors, social workers and counsellors). Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged Persons Homes Act.

A substantial number of the people employed in the sheltered workshop must be medically qualified for an invalid pension, or be likely to become so qualified if not provided with sheltered employment, and must receive payment for their work before the organisation can qualify for assistance under the Act.

During 1971-72 training fees were approved in respect of 72 handicapped workers who had graduated to open employment, at a cost of \$36,000, while a total of 1,037 approved staff positions received salary subsidy amounting to \$755,245.

The following table gives details of capital grants approved during the last financial year in each State and compares these figures with the situation obtaining throughout Australia for each of the preceding four years.

**SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT (ASSISTANCE) ACT: CAPITAL GRANTS APPROVED
1971-72**

State	Capital Grants approved for:									
	Workshop premises		Workshop equipment		Workshop rental		Residential units		Total	
	No. of grants	Amount approved	No. of grants	Amount approved	No. of grants	Amount approved	No. of grants	Amount approved	No. of grants	Amount approved
		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$
New South Wales	33	1,426,161	238	177,665	11	33,432	8	635,485	290	2,272,743
Victoria	5	99,910	49	62,354	3	1,328	2	229,206	59	392,798
Queensland	10	129,042	84	104,323	3	7,509	3	195,143	100	436,017
South Australia	12	323,269	68	55,745	2	3,293	1	240,003	83	622,310
Western Australia	5	144,027	47	42,835	3	4,185	5	277,593	60	468,640
Tasmania	6	27,521	40	37,325	..	..	1	5,614	47	70,460
Total	71	2,149,930	526	480,247	22	49,747	20	1,583,044	639	4,262,468
Total—										
1970-71	61	968,461	526	407,945	14	19,978	5	216,860	606	1,613,244
1969-70	36	901,924	295	361,662	24	57,543	4	162,088	359	1,483,217
1968-69	34	1,169,074	198	253,798	14	27,654	3	346,639	249	(a) 1,797,165
1967-68	24	1,203,249	65	124,530	9	18,176	5	398,634	103	(a) 1,744,589

(a) Includes adjustment to grants originally approved under the Disabled Persons Accommodation Act.

The *Handicapped Children (Assistance) Act 1970* came into operation on 17 June 1970. The Act provides for subsidies of \$2 for \$1 to be paid to eligible organisations towards the capital cost of premises to be used for the training of handicapped children; the cost of equipment for such training; and the capital cost of residential accommodation for handicapped children receiving training. Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged Persons Homes Act. At 30 June 1972 the subsidy had been extended to 92 premises to be used for training purposes and to 24 residential centres. The total amount approved under the Act by way of grants towards the cost of training centres, residential units and training equipment was \$3,354,658.

The *Delivered Meals Subsidy Act 1970* came into operation on 15 April 1970. Its purpose is to help organisations to establish, maintain, expand and improve 'meals-on-wheels' services. The subsidy is at the rate of \$1.50 for every ten meals provided by approved organisations. At 30 June 1972, 316 organisations had received a total subsidy of \$874,098 under the Act. Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged Persons Homes Act.

Commonwealth assistance to States

The *States Grants (Deserted) Wives Act 1968* came into operation on 21 June 1968 with retrospective effect from 1 January 1968. The Act provides for assistance to be given by the Commonwealth to the States in respect of aid for needy mothers with children where there is no bread-winner and 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, de facto wives of prisoners, and unmarried mothers.

The type of assistance attracting a Commonwealth grant may be provided in the form of cash, food or clothing. The grant is made by the Commonwealth to the States on the basis of half the cost of the approved assistance paid to the mother or half the amount of Class 'A' widow's pension, which would have been payable had she been qualified to receive it, whichever is the lesser.

All States are now receiving assistance under the scheme. In 1971-72 payments by the Commonwealth amounted to \$5,876,257 compared with \$3,691,217 during 1970-71.

The *States Grants (Home Care) Act 1969* provides that the Commonwealth will share with participating States on a \$1 for \$1 basis, the cost of developing approved housekeeping or other domestic assistance provided wholly or mainly for aged persons in their homes. The Commonwealth will also share on a \$1 for \$1 basis with participating States up to a maximum of one-third of the capital cost of approved senior citizens' centres as well as meeting on a \$1 for \$1 basis with the States the cost of a salary of a welfare officer employed by such a centre. All States participate in this scheme.

The following table shows the total payments made to the States to 30 June 1972.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR HOME CARE, SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRES, AND WELFARE OFFICERS TO 30 JUNE 1972
(\$)

<i>State</i>	<i>Home Care Services</i>	<i>Senior Citizens' Centres</i>	<i>Welfare Officers</i>	<i>Total</i>
New South Wales	395,150	73,208	2,158	470,516
Victoria	137,000	11,184	..	148,184
Queensland	269,931	107,970	519	378,420
South Australia	9,471	135,228	12,471	157,170
Western Australia	13,500	30,244	..	43,744
Tasmania	14,886	10,803	..	25,689
Total	839,938	368,637	15,148	1,223,723

The *States Grants (Dwellings for Aged Pensioners) Act 1969* enables the Commonwealth to make grants, amounting to \$25,000,000 over a five-year period commencing from 1 July 1969, to the States for the purpose of carrying out approved building schemes in connection with the provision of self-contained accommodation for single aged pensioners with little means.

DWELLINGS FOR AGED PENSIONERS: ASSISTANCE TO STATES
1971-72
(\$)

<i>State</i>	<i>Grants paid in 1971-72</i>	<i>Total grants paid to 30.6.72</i>	<i>Maximum amount payable under the Act</i>
New South Wales	3,260,000	5,498,972	10,750,000
Victoria	2,242,772	4,372,247	6,500,000
Queensland	660,652	769,206	3,350,000
South Australia	1,002,591	1,473,291	2,000,000
Western Australia	224,555	924,555	1,750,000
Tasmania	231,800	490,000	650,000
Total	7,622,370	13,528,271	25,000,000

Telephone rental concessions

Effective from 1 October 1964 an amendment to the Telephone Regulations of the Post and Telegraph Act provided that a telephone service for blind persons and for qualified age, invalid and widow pensioners is available at an annual rental equal to two-thirds of the amount otherwise payable. The Department of Social Security re-imburses the Postmaster-General's Department for the cost of the scheme including administrative costs. Expenditure during 1971-72 was \$3,805,651, plus administrative costs amounting to \$107,069.

Compassionate allowances

These allowances are paid by the Commonwealth on a discretionary basis to certain people who are unable to qualify for pensions or other benefits under the provisions of the Social Services Act. Expenditure on compassionate allowances and payments of a similar nature during 1971-72 was \$60,387.

Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory welfare services

Provision of general welfare services in these two Territories is the responsibility of the Commonwealth. In so far as welfare items can be identified for territorial accounting purposes, the following table shows the cost of providing these services for each of the years 1967-68 to 1971-72.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL WELFARE SERVICES^(a)
NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
1967-68 TO 1971-72
(\$'000)**

	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
Northern Territory—					
Current outlay	4,941	5,536	8,207	8,094	8,490
Capital outlay—					
Gross capital formation (b)	166	755	510	788	576
Total outlay	5,107	6,291	8,717	8,882	9,066
Australian Capital Territory—					
Current outlay	323	485	304	396	634
Capital outlay—					
Gross capital formation (b) . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..
Total outlay	323	485	304	396	634

(a) Includes expenditure on aboriginal affairs. (b) Expenditure on fixed assets and increase in stocks.

Aboriginal welfare

The Aboriginal population as defined at the 1971 Census of Population and Housing includes persons who, at the Census, stated themselves to be of Aboriginal origin. Persons of mixed descent were invited to indicate the race with which they identified. The number enumerated at the 1971 Census was 106,288 persons. In addition, 9,663 persons identified themselves as Torres Strait Islanders, making a total of 115,951.

The Aboriginal population is increasing at a rate faster than the Australian average. Few Aborigines still live a nomadic life; many live a settled, but in many other ways, traditional life. There are others at all stages between this and full participation in the life of the Australian community.

A referendum in May 1967 led to the repeal of Section 127 of the Constitution which provided that in reckoning the numbers for census purposes, Aborigines should not be counted; and to the deletion of the words 'other than the Aboriginal race in any State' from Section 51 (xxvi) which relates to the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws with respect to people of any race. The Federal Government, whose aim is to help the Aborigines to become an integral part of Australian community life, while at the same time preserving and developing their own distinctive culture, languages, traditions and arts, now shares with the States power and responsibilities for the advancement of Aborigines. The Commonwealth Government has created a Department of Aboriginal Affairs, in Canberra, as the agency co-ordinating national policies affecting Aborigines and responsible also for Aboriginal affairs in the Northern Territory. The Department also serves the Council for Aboriginal Affairs, comprising a Chairman and two members, which advises on the framing of national policies for the Aboriginal citizens of Australia.

In recent years the Commonwealth, State and Northern Territory legislatures have been active in progressively removing all discriminatory legislation from the relevant Acts of the Commonwealth and State Parliaments and from the relevant Ordinances of the Northern Territory. In the legal and formal sense none of the opportunities open to Australians generally is closed to Aborigines. However

the States continue to maintain a number of programs specifically for Aboriginal welfare and development, and since the establishment of the Office (now Department) of Aboriginal Affairs in 1968, the Commonwealth Government has increased its involvement. Outlays by Commonwealth authorities which have been identified as specifically relating to Aboriginal advancement are shown for 1968-69 to 1971-72 in the following table.

**OUTLAY ON ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT BY COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES
1968-69 TO 1971-72
(\$'000)**

	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
Net current expenditure on goods and services (including grants to private non-profit organisations)—				
Education	1,732	1,980	2,964	3,524
Health	418	421	393	600
Welfare	5,665	8,489	8,855	9,824
Housing	55	64	154	70
Other	298	375	537	546
<i>Total</i>	<i>8,168</i>	<i>11,329</i>	<i>12,903</i>	<i>14,564</i>
Gross capital formation—				
Education	252	2,610	851	632
Health	153	39	104	7
Welfare	755	509	706	1,284
Housing	3	197	895	517
Other	58	55	57	50
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,221</i>	<i>3,410</i>	<i>2,613</i>	<i>2,490</i>
Cash benefits to persons	62	735	2,622	3,201
Grants for private capital purposes	938	1,583	2,049	2,156
Advances to the private sector	24	417	725	614
Commonwealth grants—				
Current—				
Education	151	289	273	347
Health	162	162	290	584
Welfare	6	146	237	734
Capital—				
Education	656	655	672	867
Health	348	474	353	734
Welfare	125	140	354	734
Housing	2,202	3,545	4,821	5,200
Commonwealth advances . . . . .	..	350	..	-59
<i>Total outlay</i>	<i>14,063</i>	<i>23,234</i>	<i>27,912</i>	<i>32,166</i>

State expenditure on certain welfare services

The following table shows net expenditure from State government funds on certain welfare services. The figures exclude expenditure on unemployment, bush fire, flood, etc., relief, Aboriginal welfare, and some other items which are excluded because information cannot be obtained for all States. Loan fund expenditure is excluded also. Because of differences in organisation and accounting methods, the information shown for both items is not on exactly the same basis for all States; it may also be incomplete because particulars of some activities are not separately recorded and are therefore excluded. The expenditure shown is 'net' in the sense that receipts for services rendered have been deducted from gross expenditure.

NET EXPENDITURE BY STATE GOVERNMENTS ON CERTAIN WELFARE SERVICES, 1967-68 TO 1971-72
(\$'000)

Service and year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
1971-72—							
Relief of aged, indigent and infirm, child welfare, etc.	33,690	23,312	12,482	8,995	12,742	3,154	94,375
Miners' phthisis	55	44	..	..	82	..	181
Total	33,745	23,356	12,482	8,995	12,824	3,154	94,556
Total—							
1970-71.	25,169	18,226	10,318	6,784	10,306	2,876	73,680
1969-70.	21,445	14,547	9,730	5,768	8,805	1,966	62,260
1968-69.	20,185	13,139	9,258	5,268	7,484	2,228	57,562
1967-68.	17,945	11,674	8,399	4,861	6,591	2,188	51,658

Surveys by the Commonwealth Department of Social Security

Survey of age, invalid and widow pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria, March 1971

Details of the survey of the characteristics of age, invalid and widow pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria, covering approximately two-thirds of all such pensioners in Australia, carried out by the then Commonwealth Department of Social Services in March 1971, are shown in Year Book No. 58, pages 411-15.

Morbidity surveys of invalid pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria

Details of the two separate surveys of the major disabilities of invalid pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria undertaken during 1970 by the then Commonwealth Department of Social Services are shown in Year Book No. 58, pages 415-16.

Morbidity survey of new invalid pensioners

A survey of the major causes of disabilities of new invalid pensioners was undertaken in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania during the year 1972-73 by the then Commonwealth Department of Social Services. The table below classifies persons granted invalid pension according to age and major cause of disability.

NEW GRANTS OF INVALID PENSIONS: MAJOR CAUSE OF DISABILITY BY FIVE YEAR AGE GROUPS JULY TO DECEMBER 1971
QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA COMBINED

Major cause of disability(a)	Age groups											Total	
	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Number	Per cent
Infective and parasitic diseases	11	3	3	2	7	7	9	13	8	3	2	68	1.5
Neoplasms	12	10	4	8	8	14	29	37	53	63	1	239	5.4
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	4	3	3	6	4	10	18	21	24	13	2	108	2.4
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	2	2	..	..	9	0.2
Mental disorders	222	61	65	49	66	95	150	140	127	57	3	1,035	23.4
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	89	22	18	26	24	24	29	52	63	38	10	395	8.9
Diseases of the circulatory system	2	5	1	12	7	37	107	182	372	318	19	1,062	24.0
Diseases of the respiratory system	6	1	2	6	8	19	41	49	115	108	6	361	8.2
Diseases of the digestive system(b)	..	1	5	4	2	9	13	19	40	20	2	115	2.6
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	4	2	3	3	1	3	8	11	18	4	..	57	1.3
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	..	..	1	..	..	2	2	3	2	1	1	12	0.3
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	1	2	5	2	11	25	57	107	240	133	15	598	13.5
Congenital anomalies	37	5	3	4	6	5	7	4	8	2	..	81	1.8
Symptoms, ill-defined conditions and other diseases n.e.i.	10	5	4	3	10	5	13	11	42	20	6	129	2.9
Accidents, poisoning and violence	16	14	7	6	14	8	21	24	27	20	1	158	3.6
All causes	415	135	124	131	168	263	507	675	1,141	800	68	4,427	100.0

(a) Causes of invalidity have been classified according to the eighth (1965) revision of the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases. (b) Excluding diseases of oral cavity, salivary glands, and jaws.

Social service pensioners receiving war pension

A survey of social service pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria receiving Repatriation war pension was carried out by the then Commonwealth Department of Social Services at 30 June 1971. Estimates based on the results obtained from the survey indicate that nearly 69,000 social service pensioners in Australia (i.e. about 6.6 per cent of the total) were also in receipt of war pension at the end of June 1971.

The tables below show the age, invalid and widow pensioners classified by means as assessed and the rate of war pension. When evaluating the tables it should be noted that the war pension is included in income when calculating a pensioner's 'means as assessed'.

**SOCIAL SERVICE AGE PENSIONERS RECEIVING WAR PENSION
AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1971**

RATE OF WAR PENSION BY MEANS AS ASSESSED

Rate of war pension (\$ per annum)	Means as assessed (\$ per year)					Total per cent	Total number
	Nil	1-104	105-520	521-1,508	1,509 and over		
	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent		
Less than 104	0.1	9.7	12.9	5.2	0.8	28.7	16,400
104 and under	..	0.3	12.7	4.2	0.5	17.7	10,100
208 " "	..	..	6.4	7.7	0.6	14.7	8,400
312 " "	..	..	1.2	0.5	0.1	1.8	1,000
416 " "	..	..	0.4	0.2	..	0.7	400
520 " "	..	..	0.3	1.7	0.2	2.2	1,300
1,040 " "	..	..	..	27.9	4.5	32.3	18,600
1,560 and over	..	..	..	1.3	0.4	1.8	1,000
Total (per cent)	0.1	10.1	34.0	48.7	7.1	100	..
Total (number)	100	5,800	19,500	27,800	4,100	57,200	57,200

**SOCIAL SERVICE INVALID PENSIONERS RECEIVING WAR PENSION
AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1971**

RATE OF WAR PENSION BY MEANS AS ASSESSED

Rate of war pension (\$ per annum)	Means as assessed (\$ per year)					Total per cent	Total number
	Nil	1-104	105-520	521-1,508	1,509 and over		
	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent		
Less than 104	1.3	9.2	6.0	2.3	0.6	19.4	1,400
104 and under	1.3	1.3	12.4	2.4	0.4	17.9	1,300
208 " "	0.3	0.3	10.6	5.4	0.2	16.8	1,200
312 " "	0.6	0.3	4.8	1.3	0.1	7.1	500
416 " "	0.1	0.1	1.8	0.7	0.1	2.7	200
520 " "	0.3	0.2	5.0	11.1	0.4	17.0	1,200
1,040 " "	0.1	..	0.1	10.1	0.8	11.1	800
1,560 and over	..	..	0.1	6.3	1.5	7.9	600
Total (per cent)	4.0	11.4	40.8	39.6	4.2	100	..
Total (number)	300	800	2,900	2,800	300	7,100	7,100

SOCIAL SERVICE WIDOW PENSIONERS RECEIVING WAR PENSION
AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1971
RATE OF WAR PENSION BY MEANS AS ASSESSED

Rate of war pension (\$ per annum)	Means as assessed (\$ per year)						Total number
	Nil	1-104	105-520	521-1,508	1,509 and over	Total	
	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	
Less than 104	12.9	11.7	19.8	11.1	2.8	58.3	2,500
104 and under 208	4.6	0.3	10.1	5.9	1.0	22.0	900
208 " " 312	1.6	1.7	6.0	4.8	0.9	15.0	600
312 " " 416	0.3	0.1	1.6	0.8	0.1	2.9	100
416 " " 520 . . . . .	..	0.0	0.3	..	..	0.5	} 100
520 " " 1,040	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.1	1.2	
1,040 " " 1,560 . . . . .	..	..	..	0.1	..	0.1	
1,560 and over . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total (per cent)	19.4	14.0	38.0	23.6	4.9	100	..
Total (number)	800	600	1,600	1,000	200	4,300	4,300

Survey of the characteristics of unemployment benefit recipients, 26 February 1972

At the date of the survey by the then Commonwealth Department of Social Services there were 38,826 recipients of unemployment benefit (28,546 males and 10,280 females).

The following table classifies the beneficiaries of each sex by age group and duration of benefit.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BY SEX, AGE AND DURATION OF BENEFIT: AUSTRALIA
26 FEBRUARY 1972
(PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION)

Age group	Duration of benefit								Total	
	Under 1 week	1 week and under 2 weeks	2 weeks and under 1 month	1 month and under 6 weeks	6 weeks and under 2 months	2 months and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and over		
MALES										
Under 18 years	1.4	1.6	2.9	1.7	1.4	2.0	0.9	0.3	12.2	
18-20 years	2.0	2.3	3.6	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.3	0.5	14.8	
21-24 years	2.0	2.1	3.0	1.7	1.4	2.0	1.3	0.5	14.1	
25-44 years	3.7	4.3	6.6	3.4	3.7	5.3	4.3	2.4	33.6	
45-54 years	1.2	1.4	2.2	1.3	1.4	2.6	2.8	1.8	14.6	
55 years and over	0.6	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.9	10.7	
Total	10.9	12.5	19.8	10.9	10.4	15.5	12.6	7.5	100.0	
FEMALES										
Under 18 years	4.3	5.1	9.4	4.9	4.3	6.5	3.9	1.5	39.9	
18-20 years	3.2	3.7	6.3	3.1	2.8	3.4	3.4	2.1	28.1	
21-24 years	1.3	1.8	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.1	12.6	
25-44 years	1.1	1.6	2.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.1	1.7	12.2	
45-54 years	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	5.1	
55 years and over	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	2.0	
Total	10.5	12.7	22.0	11.0	10.1	13.5	12.2	7.9	100.0	
PERSONS										
Under 18 years	2.1	2.5	4.5	2.6	2.1	3.3	1.7	0.6	19.6	
18-20 years	2.3	2.7	4.3	2.2	1.8	2.3	1.8	0.9	18.3	
21-24 years	1.8	2.0	3.0	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.4	0.6	13.7	
25-44 years	3.0	3.6	5.4	2.8	2.9	4.2	3.8	2.2	27.9	
45-54 years	1.0	1.1	1.9	1.1	1.2	2.0	2.2	1.6	12.1	
55 years and over	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.6	1.6	8.4	
Total	10.8	12.6	20.3	10.9	10.3	15.0	12.5	7.6	100.0	

NOTE. 'Age not stated' and 'duration of benefit not stated' have been distributed proportionately.

**ANALYSIS OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT RECIPIENTS IN AUSTRALIA
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION: FEBRUARY 1971 AND 1972**

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>27 February 1971</i>	<i>26 February 1972</i>
Sex—		
Male	68.2	73.5
Female	31.8	26.5
Age group—		
Under 18 years	20.9	19.6
18–20 years	15.6	18.3
21–24 years	10.6	13.7
25–44 years	28.1	27.9
45–54 years	13.8	12.0
55 years and over	11.1	8.4
Marital status—		
Not married	70.6	75.1
Married	29.4	24.9
Country of birth—		
Australia	83.0	74.3
Outside Australia—		
Great Britain	6.0	8.2
Other	8.8	15.4
Total	14.8	23.6
Not stated	2.1	2.1
Occupation—		
Rural, fishing, etc.	7.6	3.0
Professional, etc.	1.5	2.3
Administrative, etc.	24.3	25.3
Manual workers (skilled and unskilled)	51.5	56.4
Protective service	0.2	0.2
Other service (not private household)	7.8	6.7
Private domestic service	6.2	3.3
Not stated	1.1	2.8
Duration of benefit—		
Under 1 week	9.8	10.8
1 week and under 2 weeks	11.6	12.6
2 weeks and under 1 month	19.8	20.3
1 month and under 6 weeks	10.5	10.9
6 weeks and under 2 months	12.0	10.3
2 months and under 3 months	15.2	15.0
3 months and under 6 months	12.9	12.5
6 months and over	8.2	7.6
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0
Total (numbers)	16,883	38,826

The role of voluntary agencies in Australian social welfare

Voluntary agencies have played an important role in the provision of social welfare services in Australia since the earliest days of settlement. The oldest voluntary organisation in Australia is the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, founded in 1818, 'to relieve the poor, the distressed, the aged and the infirm'. During the 19th century voluntary agencies were active in all States providing homes for orphan and abandoned children; industrial schools for older boys and girls often rescued from total destitution in the streets; relief in food and clothing for widows, old people and families of the unemployed; hospitals for the sick poor; and institutions for the aged and invalid.

Although in this century Commonwealth and State Governments have taken over many tasks formerly carried out by voluntary agencies, this has not led to any diminution in voluntary activity. The voluntary sector is probably more active today than it has ever been, not only carrying out its traditional role, but in opening up new fields of activity.

In caring for the aged, voluntary agencies are providing nursing home beds in 334 nursing homes. Accommodation for aged persons is provided, under the Aged Persons Homes Act, in hostels, aged persons homes and retirement villages, the great majority of which are run by voluntary agencies of various kinds.

In addition to the provision of residential care, voluntary agencies are concerned with providing many domiciliary services to enable the aged to remain independent as long as possible, and this is an area of increasing activity.

In 1972 voluntary agencies provided 3.3 million meals to aged and invalid persons in their own homes or at senior citizens centres. Home nursing services are provided in many areas together with home help services to assist the frail aged. Some voluntary agencies also operate friendly visiting services to alleviate the loneliness of the aged and to ensure that their needs are known, and others assist with services in senior citizens clubs.

The same pattern of activity is seen in services for the mentally and physically handicapped. Voluntary agencies provide day and residential schools for handicapped children, sheltered workshops for those able to undertake some employment and hostels for the handicapped in both sheltered and open employment. Many organisations provide home visiting services and occupational therapy for the home-bound, special training centres for various forms of rehabilitation, and recreational programs for those unable to participate in general community activities. The handicapped field is also noted for its activities in bringing together self help groups of the handicapped and their families to promote the well being of the handicapped and to encourage study and research into both prevention and rehabilitation.

Both the aged and handicapped services receive various forms of assistance from Governments in developing their services.

Besides the various forms of health services described above, many major hospitals are provided by the voluntary sector. Of 1,089 approved hospitals in Australia, 156 or almost 15 per cent are run by voluntary organisations. Such hospitals cover a wide range of needs and in addition provide nursing training which may ultimately be of service to the full range of hospitals and nursing homes.

Family and child welfare has long been an important area for voluntary activity. Children's homes provide for children deprived of normal home life because of serious problems within the family, in a wide variety of units ranging from the small family group home in an ordinary house in the suburbs, to the large unit of cottage homes grouped together. As with other services, recent years have shown a marked emphasis on preventive services through family welfare agencies and to greater use of substitute families in adoption and foster care programs.

Within the modern family welfare agency, assistance is given not only with money and food, as in the last century, but with marriage guidance, parental counselling and home-maker services, all designed to keep the family together as a unit. Other voluntary agencies run services for the single mother or provide day-care services to assist working mothers, in particular the one parent family or the family under special strain.

The well-being of Australian youth is also a matter of concern to the voluntary sector which runs youth activities of many varieties, offers adolescent counselling services and is showing a growing concern for the seriously emotionally disturbed and those becoming addicted to drugs.

As well as these general community services, special services for Aborigines have been a feature of voluntary activity. Formerly these were mainly concerned with the mission area but of late many agencies have been formed, often run primarily by Aborigines, to assist urban dwellers. Legal aid services, head start programs, nutrition programs and many others are now being made available through voluntary effort.

The care of immigrants is also a significant activity and again much of this work is now undertaken by settled immigrants in conjunction with longer established Australians.

Prisoners and ex-prisoners also receive their share of attention. Organisations exist to visit prisoners and assist their families. These will also assist prisoners on discharge, to re-settle in the community, either at home, in lodgings or in hostels provided by the agency. Other agencies concern themselves with alcoholics, homeless men and women and others temporarily destitute.

The list of activities by no means covers all the work done by the voluntary sector. New and experimental services such as Lifeline and Samaritans, drug contact centres, drop-in coffee houses, street workers for alienated youth and many others, are evidence of the continued ability of the voluntary sector of social welfare to develop and meet new social needs.

Another area of developing interest involves the participation of various kinds of citizen groups in social welfare services. These include Community Information Centres and Community Aid services largely manned by volunteers; groups of clients of social welfare services who provide both a service for their members and liaise with Departmental services on questions of the way service is offered to people in need; and Resident Action groups who are concerned to participate in any replanning of their neighbourhood. This area of citizen involvement can be expected to become more and more important over the next few years.

Studies of social needs and of the quality and the adequacy of present services are a continuing concern of the voluntary sector which has joined together with the statutory sector in Councils of Social Service at the State and the national level to promote the well-being of the deprived and disadvantaged sections of the community and the general social development of Australia.