

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### REPATRIATION.

#### § 1. General.

The Repatriation Commission, established under the Repatriation Act 1920-1961, and consisting of three full-time members, is responsible for the administration of the Repatriation Act and associate legislation, all matters of policy, and the general administration and overall supervision of the Repatriation Department. The central office is in Melbourne and there is a branch office under the control of a Deputy Commissioner in each State.

The principal functions of the Department are—

- (i) the payment of war and service pensions to ex-service men and women and their dependants;
- (ii) the provision of medical treatment to ex-service men and women for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their war service;
- (iii) the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances to ex-service men and women who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by war service;
- (iv) the provision of medical treatment to widows and dependants of deceased ex-servicemen whose deaths are due to war service.

Other functions of the Repatriation Department are outlined in a later section of this chapter (*see* § 5, General Benefits and Miscellaneous, page 1134).

Benefits are provided in respect of service, not only in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 Wars, but also in the Korea and Malaya operations and with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve.

#### § 2. War Pensions.

1. *General.*—The first provision for the payment of war pensions to ex-servicemen and their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the War Pensions Act 1914, which came into operation on 21st December, 1914. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act (amended from 31st December, 1950, to the Repatriation Act). Some of the main features relating to war pensions under the Repatriation Act 1920-1961 are set out in the following paragraphs.

(i) *Eligibility for Pension.* The 1943 amendments to the Repatriation Act considerably widened the provisions in this respect, to the benefit, mainly, of members of the Citizen Military Forces who had not served outside Australia. These provisions are summarized as follows.

- (a) A member of the forces who served (1) outside Australia, (2) in the Territories of Australia, such as Papua and New Guinea, or (3) within Australia in circumstances which can be regarded as combat against the enemy, is

covered for war pension purposes in respect of incapacity or death which may result from any occurrence that happened during the period from the date of his enlistment to the date of the termination of his service in respect of that enlistment.

- (b) In other cases where a member served only in Australia, incapacity or death to be pensionable must have been attributable to service.
- (c) There is a third ground applicable to all in (a) and those in (b) who had at least six months' camp service. This provides that, where a condition existed at enlistment, a pension may accrue if it is considered that the condition was aggravated by service.

(ii) *Pensions for Incapacity.* From 28th September, 1961, the 100 per cent. pension rate for an ex-serviceman's incapacity was increased from £5 10s. to £5 15s. a week (higher rates were payable in respect of certain commissioned ranks). The rates for wives and children of incapacitated ex-servicemen are £1 15s. 6d. and 13s. 9d. a week, respectively.

(iii) *Supplementation of Pensions.* Where an ex-serviceman is, because of his war disability, temporarily (for at least three months) precluded from earning other than a negligible percentage of a living wage, an additional pension may be granted to bring the total pension to the ex-serviceman up to £13 5s. a week, an increase of 10s. from 28th September, 1961.

(iv) *Women's Nursing and Auxiliary Services.* Members of Women's Services are eligible for pensions and other benefits as prescribed in the Act on the same basis as male members of the Forces.

(v) *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.* If, at any time after discharge, an ex-serviceman who served in a theatre of war became or becomes incapacitated, or died or dies, from pulmonary tuberculosis, war pension is payable as if the incapacity or death resulted from an occurrence on service. (See also § 3. Service Pensions.) Medical treatment may also be provided on application.

(vi) *Special Rates.* Those who have been totally blinded as a result of war service and those who are permanently and totally incapacitated receive a special pension which was increased from £12 15s. to £13 5s. a week from 28th September, 1961. This special pension may also be granted to ex-servicemen who are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, there is an intermediate rate for tuberculous patients fit for light employment. This intermediate rate was similarly increased from £8 17s. 6d. to £9 7s. 6d. a week. In addition to the special pension, an attendant's allowance of £3 5s. a week is granted to the war-blinded and to certain others who are deemed to be in need of an attendant. A war-blinded ex-serviceman who is also affected with total loss of speech or total deafness is entitled to an attendant's allowance of £5 5s. a week in lieu of that referred to above. The wife and any children under 16 years of age receive the same rates as shown in sub-para. (ii).

(vii) *Clothing Allowance.* As from 1st October, 1959, provision was made for ex-servicemen to receive a clothing allowance ranging from 3s. 9d. to 7s. 6d. weekly for damage to clothing caused by the use of an artificial limb or other appliance, where the incapacity is due to war service, or by the use of oils, ointments, or other substances used in the necessary treatment of accepted disabilities, e.g. skin diseases, suppurating wounds, etc.

(viii) *Specified Disabilities.* Where the disability is amputation of a limb or limbs or total loss of vision in one eye, amounts ranging from 13s. 6d. to £7 10s. a week in addition to the statutory rate of pension are payable as from 28th September, 1961. In addition, attendant's allowances of either £3 5s. or £5 5s. a week are payable in certain double amputation cases.

(ix) *Time Limit Removed for Wives and Children.* Prior to the 1950 amending Act, wives who were married and children who were born after specified dates, were ineligible to receive a war pension. This time limit was removed as from 2nd November, 1950.

(x) *Rates of Pension for Death. (a) Widows.* From 28th September, 1961, the rates of pension were increased by 5s. a week, the minimum rate being increased from £5 10s. to £5 15s. a week (higher rates are payable in respect of certain commissioned ranks).

In addition to pension, a widow receives an allowance if she has a dependent child or children under the age of 16 years, or if she is over 50 years of age, or is permanently unemployable, or has a child over 16 years who is undertaking education or training and who is, in the opinion of the Commission, not receiving an adequate living wage.

(b) *Children.* From 28th September, 1961, the rate of pension for the eldest child (under 16 years of age) was increased from £1 11s. 6d. a week to £1 19s. a week, and that for each younger child from £1 2s. 6d. a week to £1 7s. 6d. a week. Additional pension of 6s. a week may be paid in certain circumstances. Where both parents are dead, pension payable to each child was increased from £3 3s. a week to £3 11s. 6d. a week.

(xi) *Widowed Mother on Death of Member.* A pension ranging from £2 5s. to £4 3s. a week, according to the rank of the ex-serviceman, may be granted to the widowed mother of a deceased unmarried son, provided widowhood occurred either prior to or within three years after the death of the member. The pension may be supplemented by payment of an additional amount (not exceeding £5 5s. a week as from 28th September, 1961) according to the extent of other income of the pensioner. The value of property owned does not affect the pension.

2. *Appeals Tribunals.*—The principal Act was amended, as from 1st June, 1929, to create tribunals to hear appeals in respect of war pensions. The War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunal is empowered to hear and decide any appeal by or on behalf of ex-servicemen or their dependants against a decision of a Repatriation Board or the Repatriation Commission that the incapacity or death of an ex-serviceman did not arise out of war service. Assessment Appeal Tribunals were created to hear and decide any appeal against a current assessment or a "Nil" assessment of war pension made by the Repatriation Commission in respect of the incapacity of an ex-serviceman which had been accepted as arising out of war service. Provision was made by subsequent legislation to enable the Tribunals to hear appeals by certain members whose application for a service pension had been refused on the grounds that they were not suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis or were permanently unemployable.

3. *Summary of War Pensions, 1960-61.*—The following table provides a summary of war pensions for the 1914-18 War, the 1939-45 War, the Korea and Malaya operations and the Far East Strategic Reserve.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1960-61.

Particulars.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Far East Strategic Reserve.	Total.
New claims granted .. ..	2,094	27,202	913	61	30,270
Restorations .. ..	356	976	7	..	1,339
Claims rejected (gross) .. ..	2,085	14,718	848	118	17,769
Pensions cancelled or discontinued ..	955	15,653	68	1	16,677
Deaths of pensioners .. ..	4,921	3,112	24	..	8,057
Number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1961 .. ..	121,286	533,323	6,551	130	661,290
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1961 .. ..	£ 23,017,259	35,147,236	351,539	7,339	58,523,373
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1960-61 .. ..	£ (a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	61,050,901

(a) Not available.

4. *Classes of War Pensions, Australia, 1960-61.*—(a) *New Claims Granted.* The following is an analysis of the total number of new claims granted during 1960-61.

**WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1960-61.**

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Far East Strategic Reserve.	Total.
Ex-servicemen .. .. .	843	5,877	188	25	6,933
Wives of ex-servicemen .. .. .	1,002	5,846	193	14	7,055
Children .. .. .	139	14,703	520	15	15,377
Other dependants .. .. .	110	776	12	7	905
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>27,202</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>30,270</b>

(b) *Pensions in Force.* The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1961, for each war and for each class of pensioner.

**WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1961.**

Class.	Number of Pensioners at 30th June, 1961.				
	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Far East Strategic Reserve.	Total.
Ex-servicemen .. .. .	50,338	159,727	2,043	53	212,161
Wives .. .. .	46,031	134,365	1,457	27	181,880
Children .. .. .	1,791	211,440	2,787	34	216,052
War widows .. .. .	21,791	13,685	65	4	35,545
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	212	6,680	110	8	7,010
Orphans .. .. .	27	119	..	1	147
Parents .. .. .	822	7,039	86	2	7,949
Brothers and sisters .. .. .	57	100	3	..	160
Others .. .. .	217	168	..	1	386
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>121,286</b>	<b>533,323</b>	<b>6,551</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>661,290</b>

(c) *Special Rate Pensions.* At 30th June, 1961, special rate pensions were being paid to the following classes of ex-servicemen.

**WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES, AUSTRALIA, 30th JUNE, 1961.**

Class.	1914-18 War.	1939-45 War.	Korea and Malaya Operations.	Far East Strategic Reserve.	Total.
Totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen .. .. .	12,433	6,710	24	..	19,167
Blinded ex-servicemen .. .. .	229	227	2	..	458
Tuberculous ex-servicemen .. .. .	471	367	13	..	851
Tuberculous ex-servicemen (intermediate rate) .. .. .	115	215	1	..	331

5. *Number of War Pensioners and Annual Liability, States, etc., 30th June, 1961.*—The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war at 30th June, 1961, according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on p. 1131.)

## WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONERS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30th JUNE, 1961.

Where Paid.	Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June, 1961.				Annual Pension Liability (£.)
	Incapacitated Ex-service-men.	Dependants of Incapacitated Ex-service-men.	Dependants of Deceased Ex-service-men.	Total.	
1914-18 WAR.					
New South Wales(a) .. ..	16,110	15,383	7,700	39,193	7,497,700
Victoria .. ..	16,739	15,598	7,702	40,039	7,648,676
Queensland .. ..	6,417	5,992	2,174	14,583	3,032,630
South Australia(b) .. ..	3,906	3,880	1,802	9,588	1,835,858
Western Australia .. ..	3,986	4,098	1,606	9,690	1,511,040
Tasmania .. ..	2,162	2,125	931	5,218	1,053,191
<i>Australia</i> .. ..	<i>49,320</i>	<i>47,076</i>	<i>21,915</i>	<i>118,311</i>	<i>22,579,095</i>
Overseas .. ..	1,018	1,129	828	2,975	438,164
<b>Total</b> .. ..	<b>50,338</b>	<b>48,205</b>	<b>22,743</b>	<b>121,286</b>	<b>23,017,259</b>

1939-45 WAR.					
New South Wales(a) .. ..	55,664	113,042	10,363	179,069	12,089,268
Victoria .. ..	44,240	97,135	7,224	148,599	9,570,659
Queensland .. ..	22,225	51,210	3,401	76,836	5,465,636
South Australia(b) .. ..	16,438	38,150	2,808	57,396	3,500,884
Western Australia .. ..	14,350	30,192	2,308	46,850	2,946,718
Tasmania .. ..	6,242	15,766	796	22,804	1,399,660
<i>Australia</i> .. ..	<i>159,159</i>	<i>345,495</i>	<i>26,900</i>	<i>531,554</i>	<i>34,972,825</i>
Overseas .. ..	568	896	305	1,769	174,411
<b>Total</b> .. ..	<b>159,727</b>	<b>346,391</b>	<b>27,205</b>	<b>533,323</b>	<b>35,147,236</b>

## KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.

New South Wales(a) .. ..	800	1,563	101	2,464	129,072
Victoria .. ..	463	918	63	1,444	78,239
Queensland .. ..	361	790	39	1,190	68,413
South Australia(b) .. ..	145	342	10	497	24,360
Western Australia .. ..	165	388	21	574	29,228
Tasmania .. ..	74	198	10	282	13,478
<i>Australia</i> .. ..	<i>2,008</i>	<i>4,199</i>	<i>244</i>	<i>6,451</i>	<i>342,790</i>
Overseas .. ..	35	48	17	100	8,749
<b>Total</b> .. ..	<b>2,043</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>6,551</b>	<b>351,539</b>

## FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE.

New South Wales(a) .. ..	18	24	5	47	2,572
Victoria .. ..	10	19	..	29	1,009
Queensland .. ..	14	17	8	39	2,523
South Australia(b) .. ..	2	1	..	3	257
Western Australia .. ..	8	1	..	9	581
Tasmania .. ..	1	..	..	1	29
<i>Australia</i> .. ..	<i>53</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>6,971</i>
Overseas .. ..	..	..	2	2	368
<b>Total</b> .. ..	<b>53</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>7,339</b>

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes the Northern Territory.

6. Summary of War Pensions.—(i) *Number.* The following table shows, for each war and in total, the number of pensions granted, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30th June, 1957 to 1961.

## WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensions Granted.	Claims Rejected.	Number of War Pensions in Force at 30th June.				Annual Pension Liability at 30th June. (£.)
			Incapaci- tated Ex-service- men.	Depend- ants of Incapaci- tated Ex-service- men.	Depend- ants of Deceased Ex-service- men.	Total.	
1914-18 WAR.							
1957 .. ..	2,276	2,442	57,380	54,183	21,677	133,240	19,074,146
1958 .. ..	2,353	2,368	55,814	52,806	21,985	130,605	20,739,134
1959 .. ..	2,098	2,767	54,005	51,215	22,240	127,460	21,032,135
1960 .. ..	2,343	2,638	52,324	49,861	22,528	124,713	22,428,690
1961 .. ..	2,094	2,085	50,338	48,205	22,743	121,286	23,017,259
1939-45 WAR.							
1957 .. ..	28,634	19,682	143,055	308,333	25,287	476,675	25,609,726
1958 .. ..	29,007	18,165	147,147	321,215	25,269	493,631	28,339,013
1959 .. ..	27,829	18,954	151,249	332,691	25,758	509,698	29,904,732
1960 .. ..	28,397	17,852	155,534	341,985	26,327	523,846	33,056,692
1961 .. ..	27,202	14,718	159,727	346,391	27,205	533,323	35,147,236
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS.							
1957 .. ..	782	616	1,279	1,881	215	3,375	188,864
1958 .. ..	820	989	1,478	2,408	240	4,126	235,300
1959 .. ..	834	1,193	1,670	2,970	249	4,889	269,208
1960 .. ..	908	1,174	1,864	3,593	255	5,712	311,195
1961 .. ..	913	848	2,043	4,247	261	6,551	351,539
FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE.							
1961 .. ..	61	118	53	62	15	130	7,339
TOTAL.							
1957 .. ..	31,692	22,740	201,714	364,397	47,179	613,290	44,872,736
1958 .. ..	32,180	21,522	204,439	376,429	47,494	628,362	49,313,447
1959(a) .. ..	30,761	22,914	206,924	386,876	48,247	642,047	51,206,075
1960(a) .. ..	31,648	20,972	209,722	395,439	49,110	654,271	55,796,577
1961 .. ..	30,270	17,769	212,161	398,905	50,224	661,290	58,523,373

(a) Excludes Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners;—1959—16, 1960—65, with annual liability 1959—£1,410, 1960—£3,733.

(ii) *Amount Paid and Place of Payment.* The following table shows for the years 1956-57 to 1960-61 the amounts paid in pensions and the place where they were paid.

## WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID.

(£.)

Place of Payment.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59. (a)	1959-60. (a)	1960-61.
New South Wales(b) .. .. .	15,297,734	16,824,229	16,813,419	18,167,146	20,266,212
Victoria .. .. .	13,372,248	14,871,179	15,201,405	16,100,551	18,321,955
Queensland .. .. .	6,106,669	6,919,363	7,215,834	7,741,918	8,916,007
South Australia(c) .. .. .	4,309,036	4,812,417	4,846,030	5,052,143	5,686,305
Western Australia .. .. .	3,584,495	4,008,412	3,946,502	4,235,747	4,654,877
Tasmania .. .. .	2,026,868	2,211,862	2,229,229	2,416,016	2,582,985
Abroad .. .. .	506,737	630,735	605,004	648,344	622,560
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>45,203,787</b>	<b>50,278,197</b>	<b>50,857,423</b>	<b>54,361,865</b>	<b>61,050,901</b>

(a) Excludes payments to Far East Strategic Reserve pensioners.  
Capital Territory.

(b) Includes the Australian  
(c) Includes the Northern Territory.

## § 3. Service Pensions.

1. *General.*—The Repatriation Act 1920-1961, administered by the Repatriation Department, provides for a service pension to be paid, subject to a means test of income and property, to the following persons.

- (i) A male ex-serviceman who is sixty years of age and who served in a theatre of war, or to an ex-servicewoman who is 55 years of age and who served abroad. No pension is payable to the wife or children under 16 years of age of an ex-serviceman granted a service pension on account of age.
- (ii) An ex-serviceman who is permanently unemployable and who served in a theatre of war (or in the case of an ex-servicewoman, who served abroad). Service pensions are also payable to a pensioner's wife and up to four children under 16 years of age.
- (iii) An ex-serviceman suffering incapacity from pulmonary tuberculosis whether or not the person served in a theatre of war. Service pensions are also payable to a pensioner's wife and up to four children under 16 years of age.

Only those persons who qualify under (iii) are entitled to receive both service and invalid pensions at the same time.

2. *Rate of Pension.*—The maximum rate of service pension is the same as that for age and invalid pensions paid by the Department of Social Services, namely, £5 5s. a week. A member service pensioner with two or more children under 16 years of age in his care, custody and control, is eligible for a further 10s. a week for each child except the first, if he receives a service pension on the ground of being permanently unemployable, or suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, a service pensioner in receipt of service pension at the maximum rate may also receive supplementary assistance of 10s. a week if he pays rent and is entirely dependent upon his service pension.

The maximum rate for a member's wife is £2 17s. 6d. a week; the rate for the first child under sixteen years of age is 15s. a week and for each other child (not exceeding three) 2s. 6d. a week.

The means test sets limits to the amount of income or property which a pensioner may have for the purpose of service pension. The amount of service pension payable will depend upon the claimant's "means as assessed", which consists of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to 9d. a fortnight for each complete unit of £10 of net value of property above £200. For married couples, except where they are separated or

in other special circumstances, the income and property of each for purposes of applying the means test is taken to be half the total income and property of both, even if only one is a pensioner or claimant. A person's "means as assessed" may consist entirely of income, entirely of property component, or of both income and property components. If his "means as assessed" do not exceed £3 10s. a week, the claimant will receive the full pension of £5 5s. a week. If his "means as assessed" exceed £3 10s. a week and are less than £8 15s. a week, a reduced pension will be payable. The rate payable will be the maximum rate of £5 5s. a week less the amount by which "means as assessed" exceed £3 10s. a week. If his "means as assessed" are £8 15s. a week, or in the case of a married couple £17 10s. a week, no service pension is payable.

Income means earnings and other forms of income derived from any source, with certain exceptions, of which the principal are—certain income derived from property, gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters, benefits from friendly societies, child endowment, Commonwealth health benefits. The value of board and lodgings received by a pensioner is assessed as income at 12s. 6d. a week. Property includes all real and personal property, such as houses, land, money in hand, in a bank or on loan, shares, investments or legacies, vehicles used for business purposes, livestock. Property does not include an applicant's home, furniture or personal effects, the surrender value of life assurance policies (up to £750), value of any reversionary interest, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, vehicles maintained only for personal use.

Eligibility for service pensions was extended on 1st November, 1941, to veterans of the South African War 1899–1902, and in 1943 to members of the Forces of the 1939–45 War. Members who served in Korea, and those who served in Malaya prior to the commencement of the Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956, are also eligible.

An ex-serviceman or ex-servicewoman in receipt of a service pension is entitled, with certain exceptions, to free medical benefits for disabilities not caused by war. These benefits include general practitioner service, specialist service where necessary, full pharmaceutical benefits, surgical aids and appliances (including spectacles), dental treatment and treatment in Repatriation General Hospitals.

3. Operations, 1960-61.—The following table gives a summary of service pensions during 1960-61.

*Claims granted during year—*

Ex-servicemen .. .. .	7,336
Wives .. .. .	1,690
Children .. .. .	902
<i>Total</i> .. .. .	<u>9,928</u>

*Claims rejected during year—*

Ex-servicemen .. .. .	1,365
Wives .. .. .	598
Children .. .. .	546
<i>Total</i> .. .. .	<u>2,509</u>

Service pensions cancelled or discontinued during year ..	3,838
Deaths of pensioners during year .. .. .	2,455
Pensions in force at 30th June, 1961 .. .. .	50,302
Annual pension liability at 30th June, 1961 .. .. .	£8,343,831

4. Number of Service Pensioners and Amount Paid.—(i) *Summary, Australia.* The following table shows the number of service pensions in force and the annual liability for pensions for the five years 1956-57 to 1960-61.



SERVICE PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year	Number of Service Pensions at 30th June payable to—						Annual Pension Liability at 30th June.
	Aged Ex-servicemen.	Ex-servicemen who are—		Dependants of Ex-servicemen where the Ex-serviceman is—		Total.	
		Permanently Unemployable.	Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Permanently Unemployable.	Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		
							£
1956-57 .. ..	13,547	10,794	1,449	11,074	2,213	39,077	5,242,292
1957-58 .. ..	15,365	11,472	1,477	11,667	2,222	42,203	5,998,648
1958-59 .. ..	16,973	11,898	1,433	11,956	2,112	44,372	6,244,617
1959-60 .. ..	18,193	12,140	1,379	12,080	2,026	45,818	6,924,312
1960-61 .. ..	22,125	12,645	1,273	12,520	1,739	50,302	8,343,831

(ii) *Amount Paid and State where Paid.* The following table shows for the years 1956-57 to 1960-61 the amount paid in pensions and the State where paid.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID.  
(£.)

State where Paid.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
New South Wales(a) ..	1,727,099	1,899,624	2,233,721	2,359,860	2,734,907
Victoria .. ..	1,089,529	1,319,599	1,387,328	1,518,196	1,730,645
Queensland .. ..	845,828	945,654	995,258	1,079,810	1,213,000
South Australia(b) ..	477,229	520,481	583,826	643,906	762,677
Western Australia ..	547,473	697,531	775,769	875,706	1,051,198
Tasmania .. ..	220,204	246,859	244,398	270,745	290,311
<b>Australia .. ..</b>	<b>4,907,362</b>	<b>5,629,748</b>	<b>6,220,300</b>	<b>6,748,223</b>	<b>7,782,738</b>

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

§ 4. Medical Treatment of Ex-Servicemen Suffering from War Service Disabilities.

At 30th June, 1961, there were 4,563 in-patients in Repatriation medical institutions and State mental hospitals, including a number whose care was undertaken by the Repatriation Commission on behalf of other countries or Commonwealth departments. There were 443,119 out-patient attendances for treatment during the year, and 1,794,410 treatments by local medical officers resident in metropolitan and country areas. The expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1961, on medical treatment was £14,643,130.

## § 5. General Benefits and Miscellaneous.

1. **Other Departmental Activities.**—(i) *General.* During the 1939–45 War, the ordinary activities of the Department in the way of general benefits for the welfare of ex-servicemen and dependants were carried on without interruption. They were mainly education and training of children under the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, medical benefits for widows and children of deceased ex-servicemen and for widowed mothers of deceased unmarried ex-servicemen, funeral expenses for certain classes of ex-servicemen and dependants, and allowances to certain classes of dependants.

By legislation passed in June, 1940, these benefits were extended to servicemen engaged in the 1939–45 War, and in November, 1950, to those engaged in the Korea and Malaya Operations, and new benefits designed for the re-establishment of servicemen after discharge from the Forces were made available. The re-establishment benefits administered by the Repatriation Commission are:—payment of re-employment allowance while awaiting employment; provision of tools of trade and equipment where such are necessary to employment; transportation expenses to meet the cost of fares and removal of household belongings, where an ex-serviceman takes up training, employment, or a business, or settles on the land; supplementing of wages of apprentices whose apprenticeships were interrupted by war service; re-establishment loans to enable ex-servicemen and widows to establish themselves in business, practices or other occupations, including (until the Division of War Service Land Settlement began operations early in 1946) agricultural occupations; payment of re-establishment allowance during the early stages of establishment in business; gifts up to £75 for furniture to ex-servicemen who are blind or totally and permanently incapacitated, also to widows with children under 16 years of age; and free passages to Australia for wives, widows and children of ex-servicemen who married abroad (and passages outward from Australia in certain cases of ex-servicemen and dependants).

In 1949, the Commission took over the functions of the Re-establishment Division of the former Department of Post-War Reconstruction, and became responsible for the co-ordination of all matters relating to training under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. This scheme is now concluded, the prescribed time limits for eligibility having expired. Re-establishment of the more seriously disabled, where ordinary training is not sufficient, continues to be a function of the Commission, and special means have to be found to overcome each problem.

(ii) *General Repatriation Benefits.* The following table gives a summary of expenditure during the five years 1956–57 to 1960–61 on the more important general repatriation benefits for all wars.

## EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL REPATRIATION BENEFITS: SUMMARY.

(£.)

Year ended 30th June—	Medical Treatment.	Employment and Vocational Training.	Business Loans and Furniture.	Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.	Living Allowances.	Other Benefits.	Total.
1957..	9,418,584	253,665	91,380	427,546	2,447,443	234,797	12,873,415
1958..	10,179,683	340,004	56,492	593,097	2,906,870	228,136	14,304,282
1959..	11,230,541	368,441	36,799	608,442	3,531,840	239,167	16,015,230
1960..	12,729,687	294,967	23,516	646,224	4,210,731	268,129	18,173,254
1961..	14,643,130	215,279	6,874	730,170	5,069,563	276,137	20,941,153

2. **Expenditure by the Repatriation Department, 1960–61.**—The net expenditure by the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1961, was £94,281,208 distributed as follows.

Pensions, Allowances and other Benefits	..	..	..	£ 74,689,179
Treatment	..	..	..	14,643,130
Administration	..	..	..	3,721,265
Works, Rent and Maintenance	..	..	..	1,227,634
				<b>94,281,208</b>

3. **Settlement of Returned Service Personnel on the Land.**—Reference to the settlement of returned service personnel on the land will be found in Chapter IV.—Land Tenure and Settlement, pages 96–9, of this Year Book.

4. **The Services Canteens Trust Fund.**—(i) *Introduction.* The Services Canteens Trust Fund was established under the Services Trust Funds Act 1947. This Act transferred to the Fund the profits and assets of the Army, Navy and Air Force canteens, the mess and regimental funds of disbanded wartime units, money derived from the sale of amenities supplied to the defence forces between 3rd September, 1939, and 30th June, 1947, and funds held by the A.M.F. Special Benefits Committee, the trustees of the R.A.N. Relief Fund and the trustees of the R.A.A.F. Welfare Fund.

(ii) *Establishment and Administration of the Fund.* The total amount transferred to the Fund to 31st December, 1961, was £5,526,892. The Act prescribed that, of this, £2,500,000 and such further amounts as the trustees of the Fund might from time to time decide should be devoted to the provision of education facilities for the children of eligible ex-service men and women, and that the balance of the fund should be used to provide relief for ex-service men and women and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by ten honorary trustees, appointed by the Governor-General. The trustees have power to determine the persons or groups of persons to benefit from the Fund and the extent of benefits to be granted within the provisions of the Act, and to appoint regional committees to assist with the administration.

Regional committees have been established in all Australian States, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory (Darwin and Alice Springs), New Zealand and London. All Australian diplomatic and consular posts also act as local representatives of the trustees. They have delegated to them by the trustees specific powers to deal with applications for assistance from the Fund.

Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939–45 War or are widows of men who served during the war, and, with the exception of regional chairmen and deputy chairmen, have been selected by the trustees from nominees of the major ex-service organizations. They serve in an honorary capacity.

(iii) *Assistance from the Fund.* (a) *General.* Persons eligible for assistance from the Fund are those who, between 30th September, 1939, and 30th June, 1947, served in the Australian Naval, Military or Air Forces, including members of the Canteens Staff of any ship of the Royal Australian Navy, persons duly accredited to any part of the Defence Force who served in an official capacity on full-time paid duty, and their dependants.

The trustees are charged under the Services Trust Funds Act with providing educational assistance, including professional and trade training, for the children of deceased or incapacitated eligible servicemen or of eligible servicemen who are in needy circumstances, and for the children of other eligible servicemen in exceptional circumstances, and with providing benefits or other relief for eligible servicemen and their dependants in necessitous or deserving circumstances.

The trustees have introduced schemes for providing—

- (i) Welfare relief for ex-service men and women who are eligible for benefits, and for their dependants;
- (ii) Benefits for children of eligible ex-service men and women who are suffering from serious and incapacitating afflictions; and
- (iii) Education benefits for the children of eligible ex-service men and women.

From its inauguration in 1947, the Fund is to be available for 40 years for welfare relief and for 30 years for educational benefits.

(b) *Welfare Relief.* More than one million men and women served in the Australian Armed Forces during the 1939–45 War and they and all their dependants are eligible for benefits from the Fund. The trustees have therefore prescribed a policy for welfare relief which makes assistance available only to those who are in genuine distress from which they cannot extricate themselves by their own efforts.

Applications are carefully investigated to determine the bona fides of the applicant and of the case presented, and to help regional committees in deciding the kind of assistance if any, to be given. Where possible, investigations are made by trained social workers on the staff either of the Fund or of recognized agencies.

To 31st December, 1961, £1,227,417 had been granted as welfare relief from the fund, £860,716 to ex-servicemen and their dependants, and £366,701 to widows and orphans. The amount granted during 1961 was £71,522. A total of 27,879 ex-service men and women, and 11,080 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31st December, 1961.

Of all persons eligible for assistance from the Fund, widows and orphans are considered likely to be in greatest need, especially in the period immediately following the death of an ex-serviceman. Consequently, every effort is made to locate these widows and orphans and their degree of need is interpreted more liberally than is that of ex-servicemen.

(c) *Assistance under Afflicted Children's Scheme.* Also considered particularly deserving of assistance are dependent children suffering from afflictions which permanently disable or seriously retard their progress, or prevent the enjoyment of normal health and strength, who face a prospect of complete or partial dependence on others for all or part of their lives. The trustees introduced a plan to ensure that any eligible child suffering from a serious affliction may be assisted as necessary to have access to whatever treatment or facilities are available to help the child to lead as normal a life as possible, despite his or her handicap. The extent to which assistance will be granted in a particular case depends largely on the nature of the child's affliction, the facilities available, the family circumstances, and the funds that can be made available. Up to 31st December, 1961, 2,244 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme, involving an expenditure of £110,613.

(d) *Educational Assistance Scheme.* Educational assistance is restricted to children who are 15 years of age and over, except in exceptional circumstances, when it may be granted from the age of 13, and, in the case of orphans, when assistance may commence from the age of 12 years. The object of the trustees is to assist eligible children to obtain the highest education within their capacity. Educational assistance from the Fund is in the form of awards ranging from £5 to £200 a year depending on the cost of the course undertaken and the family circumstances. These awards are granted for practically every type of course of education, whether secondary, tertiary or commercial. They are designed to cover, or contribute towards, the cost of essential books, fees in cases where government school courses are not available, fares between the child's home and school, essential equipment and material, a uniform allowance in certain years, and a maintenance allowance for the child while at school. Provision exists for one post-graduate scholarship each year for study overseas, valued at £1,000 per annum for three years. Higher training education awards are also provided for selected students for post-graduate study in such fields as physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, orthoptic therapy, laboratory technique, etc.

The number of children assisted under the educational scheme to 31st December, 1961, was 35,308, and the expenditure on educational awards, post-graduate scholarships and higher training education awards to 31st December, 1961, was £1,768,104.

## § 6. Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances.

The Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940 provided for the grant of pensions to Australian mariners (defined in the Act to cover *inter alia* persons employed in sea-going service on ships registered in Australia and engaged in trading, or on certain other ships owned in Australia and operating from Australian ports) who sustained injury through enemy action, and their dependants, and to the dependants of those who were killed by enemy action. Detention allowances were provided for Australian mariners who were captured, and their dependants, during the period of detention. Compensation to Australian mariners was provided for in respect of personal effects lost or damaged through enemy action. Regulations passed in 1942 provided also for the continuance of wages for those captured by the enemy.

Amendments to the original Act and regulations raised pensions to rates corresponding to those payable under the Repatriation Act, and made mariners eligible for general benefits on the same scale as those available under that Act.

Pensions payable at 30th June, 1961, numbered 235, comprising 55 to incapacitated mariners, 99 to their dependants, and 81 to the dependants of deceased mariners, and the total expenditure during the year 1960-61 was £43,570, compared with amounts ranging between £33,000 and £39,000 in the previous four years.