

## SOCIAL WELFARE

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### COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

#### **Commonwealth Commission of Inquiry into Poverty**

The terms of reference of an independent, non-parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into Poverty in Australia were announced on 29 August 1972 by the Prime Minister. Professor R. F. Henderson, Director of the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne, was appointed to undertake the Inquiry on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. The terms of reference of the Commission as announced were to investigate :

- (1) The extent of poverty in Australia, including changes in its level ;
- (2) the incidence of poverty in Australia upon special categories of persons or localities ;
- (3) factors which cause poverty in Australia ;
- (4) the ways in which the Commonwealth and State Governments, local government bodies, and other bodies and persons currently assist the alleviation of poverty in Australia; the extent and effectiveness of existing measures and services; and the differences between and within States in the efforts of State Governments, local government bodies, and other bodies and persons to alleviate aspects of poverty in Australia ;
- (5) any desirable changes that would contribute to the reduction of poverty in Australia ; and
- (6) any associated matters relevant to the general objects of the Inquiry.

Subsequently, on 6 March 1973, the Prime Minister announced the broadening of the Commission by the appointment of four additional commissioners to concentrate on specialised areas.

The reports presented to the Commonwealth Government included an interim report, tabled on 3 April 1974 ; the first main report, tabled on 27 August 1975 ; volume 2 containing technical material not included in the first report, tabled on 18 February 1976; law and poverty, tabled on 30 October 1975 ; and social/medical aspects of poverty, tabled on 4 June 1976. Other commissioners were to report later in 1976. In addition to the main reports, 24 research reports have been published.

#### **Social welfare programmes\***

##### *Introduction*

The Commonwealth Department of Social Security is the Commonwealth Government's main administering authority for social welfare. Programmes administered by this Department range from direct transfer payments to individuals, through grants to organisations, to direct welfare services production.

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\* The information contained in this section was accurate as of 30 June 1976. As the details of programmes often change quite rapidly, the information can only be vouched for as a record until this date.

The Department of Social Security was established in 1972 from an amalgamation of the former Department of Social Services and the Health Insurance and Benefits Division of the Department of Health. The Department's role then became one of servicing the needs of people in the areas of social security, welfare services, and health insurance. In January 1976, the health insurance function was transferred back to the Department of Health. In March 1975, most of the Social Welfare Section of the former Department of Immigration was transferred to the Department of Social Security.

The Department of Social Security offers its services at a number of decentralised locations. This decentralisation programme, which was begun in 1947, has continued steadily and in 1976 there were twenty-four regional and district offices located at Ballarat, Bendigo, Box Hill, Dandenong, Footscray, Frankston, Geelong, Glenroy, Greensborough, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Moonee Ponds, Morwell, Oakleigh, Prahran, Preston, Richmond, Sale, Shepparton, Sunshine, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, and Werribee.

Summary details for expenditure under the various Acts and experimental programmes (i.e., those without a specific legislative base) can be found on pages 840-1.

The various programmes administered and developed by the Department of Social Security can be divided into the following three categories:

- (1) Transfer payments to individual citizens;
- (2) grants to organisations to produce welfare services; and
- (3) welfare service production.

#### *Transfer payments to individual citizens*

The transfer payments to individuals provided under the Social Services Act, with the date of introduction of each in brackets, are: age pensions (1909), invalid pensions (1910), widows' pensions (1942), funeral benefits (1943), unemployment, sickness, and special benefits (1945), and supporting mother's benefits (1973), all of which are now subject to an income test; and maternity allowances (1912), family allowances (1941), orphan's pensions (1973), and handicapped child's allowances (1975), which are not subject to a means test. Payments through the State Government to individuals are made under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act (1968).

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

From 1 July 1976 all pensions and benefits, with the exception of invalid pension paid to a person under age pension age (65 years for men and 60 years for women) and wife's pension paid to the wife of an invalid pensioner where both are under age pension age, are taxable income.

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

With the introduction of the Medibank levy from 1 October 1976 the payments above are included with taxable income in deciding whether a levy or what amount of levy is payable. However, pensioners who have a Health Benefits Card (PMS2) do not have to pay a levy.

If individuals are dissatisfied with decisions made by the Department on pensions, benefits, or allowances they have claimed, they may appeal to the

Social Security Appeals Tribunal. The Tribunal makes recommendations to the Department on whether such appeals should be allowed. The Tribunal officially commenced operating in Victoria on 10 February 1975 and consists of two part-time members, who are not public servants, and a representative of the Department. During 1975-76 the Tribunal had received 5,811 appeals from clients, and of these appeals 4,516 have been finalised. Of these, 3,760 appeals resulted in the Department voluntarily reviewing its decision, 239 appeals were determined by the Tribunal in favour of the appellant, and 1,718 against the appellant. All recommendations made by the Tribunal have been accepted by the Department.

#### *Age pensions*

Age pensions, or old-age pensions as they were called from 1909 to 1947, were the first of the income security benefits to be introduced on an Australia-wide basis. The rates of pension and the qualifying conditions have changed over the years and additional benefits have become payable but, fundamentally, the provisions have not altered markedly. The main essentials for 1976 are that pensions are granted subject to age and residence requirements, and a means test on income and property on people up to and including 69 years of age and not blind.

Since 1973, age pensions for persons aged 75 years and over have been free of the means test. In 1975 the means test was abolished for persons aged 70 years and over. Pensions were increased twice in 1975-76 and again in November 1976. From 25 November 1976 an income only test applies and the value of property is no longer taken into account. Also, in future, pensions will be adjusted twice yearly in May and November according to movements in the Consumer Price Index.

On 30 June 1976, there were 1,158,657 age pensioners in Australia (the Victorian total being 316,950), of whom 67.6 per cent were women. The main reasons for the preponderance of women are that they may be granted age pensions five years earlier than men (i.e., at 60 years of age as against 65 years of age) and that they generally live longer than men.

992,300 age pensioners in Australia (85.6 per cent of total age pensioners) were also receiving supplementary assistance. The proportion of persons receiving age pensions in the population of pensionable aged people has shown a long-term increase. At the 1911 Census the percentage was 32.0 per cent and by the 1976 Census it had reached 79 per cent.

Some people of pensionable age are receiving invalid or widow's pensions, or service pensions from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs (see pages 842-3).

#### *Invalid pensions*

The original Commonwealth pensions legislation contained provisions for invalid as well as age pensions and, although some of the qualifying conditions necessarily differ, the two schemes have many common characteristics. This applies more particularly to the means test provisions. As with age pensions, the conditions have changed over the years, but there have always been the fundamental requirements connected with age, incapacity, residence, income, and property. Abolition of the means test in 1973 for residentially qualified persons over 75 years of age, and in 1975 for persons of 70 years of age and over, does not apply to invalid pensioners. Increases for 1975-76 were as for age pensions. Also, the new income test applied from 25 November 1976.

The wife of an age or invalid pensioner may receive a pension of an equivalent rate to her husband if she is residing with him and does not qualify for a pension in her own right. However, if the husband receives an age pension

free of the new income test, the wife's pension may be less as it remains subject to the income test.

On 30 June 1976, there were 183,787 persons in Australia receiving invalid pensions, of whom 116,118 were men. The Victorian component was 42,044, of whom 27,107 were men. 78,800 invalid pensioners in Australia (42.9 per cent of total invalid pensioners) were also receiving supplementary assistance.

#### *Widow's pensions*

For widow's pensions purposes the term "widow" may include, in certain circumstances, a woman whose husband has deserted her for at least six months, a divorcee, a woman whose husband has been imprisoned for at least six months, a woman whose husband is in a mental hospital, and a woman who was the dependant of a man for at least three years immediately before his death. Increases during 1975-76 and changeover to the new income test are as for the age pension. The rate of supplementary assistance was also increased in 1974. On 30 June 1976, there were 120,791 widow pensioners in Australia.

#### *Concessions for pensioners*

In addition to the normal payments, there are a number of other concessions and services available to the types of pensioners already mentioned, who qualify under a separate means test. Such fringe benefits are provided by organisations other than the Department of Social Security and include the pensioner health benefits service, hearing aids for pensioners, municipal rate rebates, water and sewerage rate rebates, telephone rental concessions, and transport concessions on Commonwealth Government trains, Victorian Government trains, trams, and buses, and on buses operated by private companies. A reciprocal arrangement with the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, New South Wales, and South Australia permits Victorian pensioners to obtain transport concessions when visiting those States or Territory.

#### *Funeral benefits*

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

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

Expenditure on funeral benefits during the year 1975-76 was \$1,526,000 for Australia, and \$395,000 for Victoria.

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

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

Rates of benefit were increased in 1952, 1961, and 1962, and permissible income was raised in 1957. Unemployment and sickness benefits are essentially short-term benefits. They are available to persons who are unemployed or who are temporarily incapacitated for work. Unemployed persons need not have suffered a loss of income. However, a person claiming sickness benefits must have suffered a loss of income as a direct result of his/her incapacity to work.

There is a means test on income, but none on property. The one year's residence qualification is waived where the Department is satisfied that the claimant intends to remain in Australia permanently. Liberalisation of the means test in 1960 provided for the recovery of sickness benefits from compensation in certain circumstances, and the waiting period of seven days for unemployment and sickness benefits was changed so that it is now only necessary to be served once in any period of thirteen weeks.

In March 1962 the additional benefit for one dependant child was extended to all dependent children under 16 years of age in the family of the beneficiary. The rate of benefit was increased again in 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1976. From March 1973 the rates of pensions and benefits were brought into parity and this resulted in the abolition of the long-term rate of sickness benefit. A married rate was also introduced and an additional benefit was extended to include student children over 16 years of age. From 13 January 1975 for unemployment benefits and from 24 May 1975 for sickness benefits, benefit payments were made one week in advance rather than one week in arrears as previously. Payments were altered to cover fortnightly instalments on a trial basis from 23 March 1976.

The number of unemployment benefits granted varies from one year to another, according to the general employment situation and to dislocations in industry caused by industrial stoppages and structural factors. During 1975-76 a total of 891,904 unemployment benefits were granted in Australia, and on 30 June 1976 there were 188,423 persons receiving benefit. Comparable figures for Victoria were 187,393 and 43,638, respectively.

Altogether 153,869 grants of sickness benefits were made in Australia during 1975-76 (31,623 in Victoria), and there were 30,468 persons on benefit at the end of this period (8,942 in Victoria). Total expenditure in Australia on unemployment, sickness, and special benefits in 1975-76 was \$622,884,000, expenditure in Victoria during the same period being \$158,642,000.

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

The States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act came into operation on 1 January 1968. It provides for assistance to be given by the Commonwealth Government to the States in respect of aid for mothers with children where the mothers are not eligible for benefits under the Social Services Act. Broadly, these include deserted wives during the first six months of desertion, wives during the first six months of the husband's imprisonment, deserted de facto wives, and unmarried mothers who are ineligible for the Commonwealth Government widow's pension.

During the year ended 30 June 1976, payments to the States under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act totalled \$9,720,800. The Victorian total was \$2,016,280.

#### *Supporting mother's benefit*

The supporting mother's benefit was introduced on 3 July 1973. It provides assistance to mothers who are not eligible for the widow's pension. These include unmarried mothers, deserted de facto wives, women whose de facto husbands are in prison, and other wives separated from their husbands for various reasons. These mothers qualify for a supporting mother's benefit six months after the date of the event which gives rise to eligibility, e.g., the birth of a child or separation. Entitlement to this form of assistance is subject to an income test and other qualifications.

During the year ended 30 June 1976, payments under the supporting mother's benefit totalled \$127,230,000, the Victorian total being \$25,678,000.

*Additional allowances*

Pensioners and beneficiaries may be eligible for up to \$7.50 a week for each dependent child. Age, invalid, and widow pensioners, and supporting mother's beneficiaries may be eligible for up to \$6.00 a week guardian's or mother's allowance if they are lone parents. Up to \$5.00 a week supplementary assistance may be paid to pensioners, supporting mother's beneficiaries, and sickness beneficiaries (after six weeks), if they pay rent or board or board and lodging and have little or no income apart from pension or benefit.

*Maternity allowances*

Except between July 1931 and June 1943, when a means test applied, maternity allowances have, since their introduction in 1912, been paid to mothers residing in Australia on the birth of a child. The one year's residence qualification is waived if the mother intends to remain permanently in Australia; in other cases, payment may be made when the mother has completed one year's residence. The amount of the allowance depends upon the number of other children under 16 years of age in the mother's custody, care, and control. The maternity allowance is additional to any Commonwealth Government health benefits.

The number of allowances paid annually in Australia increased steadily following the end of the Second World War, reflecting the influence of the immigration programme and the increased number of births, until a peak of 240,481 allowances was reached in the year ended 30 June 1962. During the next four years the number declined gradually to 224,311 for 1966, then rose during the next six years to 272,006 for 1972. However, during the next four years the number of maternity allowances paid decreased to 226,841 for 1976, involving expenditure of \$7,211,000.

*Family allowances*

Family allowances constitute a continuing payment made to each person (usually the mother) who has the care of one or more children under 16 years of age, or one or more qualified full-time students 16 to 24 years of age. The rate of allowance for each child depends upon the child's position in the family in relation to the other children under 16 years of age. Student children aged from 16 but under 25 years of age are treated on the same basis as other children.

When it was introduced in 1941 this scheme provided for family allowances to be paid at the rate of 50 cents a week for each child under 16 years of age, other than the first child, in a family. The rates and conditions have changed over the years, and in October 1967 a cumulative increase was made for the fourth and subsequent children under 16 years of age in families, so that for each such child the rate is 25 cents a week more than for the next immediate older child. In October 1971 family allowances were increased by 50 cents for the third and later children.

On 20 May 1976 the Minister for Social Security announced a major re-structuring of the family allowances system. The rates for family allowances were increased for the first child from 50 cents a week to \$3.50 a week, for the second child from \$1.00 to \$5.00, for the third child from \$2.00 to \$6.00, for the fourth child from \$2.25 to \$6.00, and for the fifth child from \$2.50 to \$7.00. The rate of allowance for children after the fifth child is also \$7.00 a week.

The previous "flat rate" of \$1.50 a week for each student child was abolished, and the age limit for student children was extended from 21 years of age to under 25 years of age. The rate for student family allowances now ranges

from \$3.50 to \$7.00 a week, depending on how many other children there are in the family and the student child's position in the family. The new rates became effective from the first family allowances pay day after 15 June 1976.

A new section has been inserted in the Social Services Act to enable family allowances to be granted to a person not otherwise eligible but who is a taxpayer and who will lose the taxation rebates for children. The classes of persons who will benefit from this initiative are a taxpayer who is resident in Australia and supporting a child who is outside Australia, and a person who is temporarily in Australia and pays Australian tax.

In relation to children under 16 years of age the total number of endowed families in Australia and abroad on 30 June 1976 was 1,935,596, and the number of endowed children in families was 3,997,148. There were also 17,972 endowed children under 16 years of age and 646 students aged 16 years but less than 21 years of age in institutions. Expenditure for all endowed children for the year 1975-76 was \$265,463,000.

#### *Orphan's pensions*

An orphan's pension of \$11 a week is payable to any person having the custody, care, and control of a child under 16 years of age or a full-time student child under 25 years of age if both parents (including adoptive parents of the child) are dead or if one parent is dead and the whereabouts of the other parent is unknown. An orphan's pension is free of any means test and is payable in addition to family allowances.

#### *Handicapped child's allowances*

A handicapped child's allowance of \$10 a week is payable to parents or guardians of a severely physically or mentally handicapped child who is being cared for in the family home. The allowance is designed specifically to assist parents and guardians who have a handicapped child under 16 years of age requiring constant attention and who prefer to provide this attention at home rather than place the child in an institution. A handicapped child's allowance is free of any means test and is payable in addition to family allowances.

#### *Reciprocal agreements*

The Social Services Act provides for the Commonwealth Government to enter into reciprocal agreements with the government of any other country in matters concerning pensions and benefits under the Act. Arrangements of this kind were operating with New Zealand and the United Kingdom at 30 June 1976.

The general basis of these agreements is that residence in New Zealand or Britain may be treated as residence in Australia. In return, Australians who go to those countries for permanent residence receive concessions enabling them to qualify for equivalent benefits there.

#### *Portability of pensions*

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

#### *Grants to organisations to produce welfare services*

The Commonwealth Government also provides financial assistance to eligible organisations such as other levels of government and non-profit organisations (e.g., religious, ethnic, or ex-servicemen organisations). These organisations in

turn conduct welfare services with specialised target groups such as migrants, handicapped persons, aged persons, and homeless persons. The various programmes are: (1) aged or disabled persons homes, (2) personal care subsidy, (3) delivered meals subsidy, (4) States Grants (Home Care) Act, (5) handicapped persons assistance, (6) sheltered employment allowances, (7) homeless persons assistance, (8) welfare rights, (9) Australian Assistance Plan, (10) social worker grant-in-aid scheme, (11) community information centres, and (12) financial assistance for community welfare agencies in need.

#### *Aged or disabled persons homes*

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

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

From 20 May 1976 the ratio of subsidy reverted to \$2 for \$1 but at the same time the maximum subsidy limits were increased to \$10,200 per single self-contained unit, hostel, or nursing bed and further increased to \$10,480 from 1 October 1976.

An important requirement for a grant of subsidy is that the conditions of the home approach as nearly as possible ordinary domestic life for the residents.

Since the original legislation was enacted in 1954, grants amounting to \$235,332,044 had been approved to 30 June 1976. The projects gave accommodation to 56,752 aged and later disabled persons. In Victoria, 762 grants had been approved amounting to \$52,451,140. These grants involved subsidised accommodation for 13,163 persons.

The Commonwealth Government has announced that it proposes to allocate \$225m Australia-wide over the next three years for capital grants under the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act and the Aged Persons Hostels Act. Grants will be approved on a priority needs basis. Details concerning those organisations which have received a priority appeared in the Commonwealth Parliament's *Hansard* on 8 September 1976.

The Commonwealth Government has set up a Committee of Inquiry into Care of the Aged and Infirm and has also appointed a task force to examine welfare services and community based programmes in the health/welfare/community development area. Future policy decisions may be made in the light of the recommendations received from these inquiries.

#### *Aged Persons Hostels Act*

This legislation is explained on page 710 of the *Victorian Year Book* 1976. Organisations which established an entitlement under this Act have had their entitlement preserved. Twelve grants totalling \$11,630,889 were approved in 1975-76. In Victoria, the number of grants was six, totalling \$3,389,587.

Details concerning priorities and the future programme, are set out in the previous section on the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act.

#### *Personal care subsidy*

An amending Act passed during 1969 provided for payment of a personal care subsidy to approved homes. Homes where residents are provided with all



meals and where staff is employed to assist those who need help with bathing, dressing, personal laundry, and the cleaning of their rooms, and those who need help with medication, may be approved for subsidy. A staff member is required to be available at all times to give assistance in the case of emergency. The amount of subsidy paid is \$15 a week payable at four-weekly intervals on the basis of the number of persons residing in approved accommodation who are: (1) 80 years of age and over, and (2) under 80 years of age who are receiving personal care services because they are all permanently unable to perform those tasks themselves. At 30 June 1976, 507 premises had been approved for subsidy in Australia, and the subsidy paid for the twelve months was \$9,493,208. In Victoria, the number of homes was 134, and the subsidy paid was \$2,514,124.

#### *Delivered meals subsidy*

The Delivered Meals Subsidy Act, assented to in April 1970, assists organisations to establish, maintain, expand, and improve approved "meals-on-wheels" services.

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

Non-profit religious, charitable, benevolent, and welfare bodies not controlled by the Commonwealth or State Governments may apply for the subsidy. Local government bodies may also apply. At 30 June 1976 the number of approved organisations in Australia was 501, the number of meals served was 5,992,799 during the year, and the amounts granted totalled \$1,799,253. The Victorian totals were 152 approved organisations, 1,886,505 meals, and the amounts granted totalled \$584,894.

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

This Act, introduced in 1969, provides financial assistance for States developing home care services mainly for the aged, and for the States developing senior citizens centres. It also enables the Commonwealth Government to pay half the salary of a welfare officer co-ordinating home care services run by, or in association with, senior citizens centres. During the year 1975-76, payments of \$9,877,098 were made to the States under the Act, of which \$3,647,321 was allocated to Victoria.

#### *Handicapped persons assistance*

The Handicapped Persons Assistance Act came into effect in December 1974 following the repeal of the *Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act 1967* and the *Handicapped Children (Assistance) Act 1970*. The former provisions of the repealed legislation were incorporated in the new Act which at the same time was broadened in scope to permit a wider range of assistance than had previously been provided. The Act now provides assistance to eligible organisations for the following prescribed services relating to handicapped or disabled persons: training, activity therapy, sheltered employment, residential accommodation, holiday accommodation, recreational facilities, and rehabilitation facilities.

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

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

#### *Sheltered employment allowances*

These allowances were introduced in 1967 under the Handicapped Persons Assistance Act, and are payable, in lieu of invalid pensions, to disabled persons engaged in approved sheltered employment, or to those who would become qualified for an invalid pension if not provided with sheltered employment; the means test is the same as for invalid pensions. A means test free special incentive allowance of \$5 per week is paid to persons receiving sheltered employment allowances, in lieu of supplementary assistance.

#### *Homeless persons assistance*

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

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

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

#### *Welfare rights*

The welfare rights programme is designed to assist disadvantaged sections of the community to become aware of and to attain their social welfare rights and entitlements. Five community-based welfare organisations are participating in a trial programme in Victoria, which commenced in September 1974. These organisations until June 1976 were the Council for the Single Mother and Her Child, the Australian-Greek Welfare Society, F.I.L.E.F. (Federazione Italiana Lavoratori Emigranti Famiglia), the Australian-Turkish Cultural Association, and CO.AS.IT (Comitato Assistenza Italiani).

The Department of Social Security is subsidising such organisations to employ welfare rights officers to disseminate information on rights and entitlements and to act as advocates and representatives of people unaware of their rights or unable to exercise them adequately. The activities of the welfare rights officers vary according to what is most appropriate in each of the communities they represent and their involvement is not confined to social security matters but encompasses educational, legal, health, industrial, and other issues in the general social welfare field.

The welfare rights officers are selected by and accountable to the organisations through which they work. An evaluation of the project is being undertaken to determine the effectiveness of a welfare rights approach to social welfare and whether the programme is to continue. In the trial twelve months programme, \$10,000 per year is being provided to each of the five organisations involved.

#### *Australian Assistance Plan*

Since its inception in July 1973 as a trial three year programme, the Australian Assistance Plan has played a significant role in the planning and development of welfare services in Victoria. Originally conceived by the National Social Welfare Commission and then administered by the Department of Social Security, the scheme was designed to bring people together to improve their own community in the way they wished, through the formation of Regional Councils for Social Development.

While only an experiment, the Australian Assistance Plan generated such interest that nineteen Regional Councils for Social Development now encompass every part of Victoria. Ten of these regions received an initiating grant of \$2,000 only, which enabled them to meet basic organisational costs. The other nine regions received a grant of \$40,000 per year to enable them to set up their social planning secretariat and to cover necessary administrative costs. In addition, these nine latter regions received grants to employ community development officers, whose responsibility it was to bring people together in groups or organisations in order to take action on social programmes and issues affecting their communities. A grant of \$12,000 was provided for each community development officer, and 44 such officers were employed in Victoria.

Four of these nine regions have also received grants for paying community welfare programmes on the basis of \$2 per head of population. The Regional Council determines priorities and makes recommendations to the Department of Social Security. In 1975-76 the Barwon Regional Council for Social Development, centred in Geelong, received \$332,000, the Loddon-Campaspe Regional Council for Social Development (Bendigo) received \$264,000, the Western Regional Council for Social Development (Footscray) received \$705,000, and the Outer-Eastern Regional Council for Social Development (Ringwood) received \$754,000.

As the pilot programme culminated on 30 June 1976, the Commonwealth Government has looked closely at the Australian Assistance Plan to evaluate its effectiveness. This evaluation process included reports from the Social Welfare Commission, reports from independently engaged evaluators, consultants with voluntary agencies, local government, and State Governments, and a national conference of Regional Councils for Social Development held on 1-2 May 1976.

Following this evaluation process, the Commonwealth Government announced plans to shift responsibility for the programme to State Governments.

#### *Social worker grant-in-aid scheme*

This scheme was introduced in 1968 by the then Department of Immigration to extend welfare services to migrants. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to selected community welfare agencies to enable them to employ qualified social workers to help migrants with major settlement problems.

The scheme complements the services of the Department of Social Security by taking assistance to metropolitan areas where migrants are concentrated. The scheme also recognises the increasing involvement of voluntary and ethnic agencies (the majority of which have limited financial resources) in providing for the welfare of migrants.

There are currently sixteen such grants to thirteen organisations in Victoria.

*Community information centres*

This programme was introduced on a trial basis in December 1974. Only one organisation in Victoria, the Ballarat Citizens Advice Bureau, received the initial grant of \$3,500.

The objective of the programme is to provide funds to support innovative community information centres whose prime role is community information and referral services. The funds are only part of the total required for the operations of the centre.

*Financial assistance for community welfare agencies in need*

This scheme was introduced in 1974 to provide assistance to community inspired and supported, non-profit, charitable, benevolent, and religious welfare organisations experiencing marked financial difficulties as a result of the economic situation. The scheme directs assistance to agencies providing counselling, information, and advisory services to people in need. However, those which provide both a counselling service with incidental material relief are also eligible. Organisations providing primarily institutional care or material relief are excluded, as are regional, State, or national organisations. Finance is given as once only aid to enable agencies to make their own adjustments in difficult circumstances, and is not meant to replace other government and non-government funding.

In 1975-76 the amount of grants made in Victoria totalled \$38,190 to five organisations.

*Welfare service production*

As well as giving individual persons money for their personal allocation, or providing money to organisations to produce welfare services, the Department of Social Security also engages in the production of the following welfare services: (1) the Commonwealth Government Rehabilitation Service, (2) individual and group welfare work, (3) interpreter services, and (4) information services.

*Commonwealth Government Rehabilitation Service*

Rehabilitation is provided free of charge to: (1) those receiving or eligible for an invalid or widow's pension, (2) those receiving or eligible for a sickness, unemployment, or special benefit, (3) those receiving a tuberculosis allowance, (4) discharged regular servicemen who are disabled but ineligible for repatriation assistance, (5) boys and girls of 14 or 15 years of age who, without treatment or training, would be likely to qualify for an invalid pension at 16 years of age, and (6) those who become disabled while working for the Commonwealth Government and who are covered by the Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act.

Persons are chosen from these groups if the disability is a substantial handicap for employment but is remedial, and if there are reasonable prospects of the person going to work on the completion of treatment or training.

Training and living-away-from-home allowances may be paid, and artificial aids and appliances are supplied free of charge.

During 1975-76, 2,937 persons were accepted for rehabilitation, 872 of whom were in Victoria, while 1,376 were placed in employment, 385 of whom were in Victoria. Expenditure on rehabilitation in Victoria during the year totalled \$3,981,851.

*Individual and group welfare work*

Through its State headquarters and twenty-four regional and district offices throughout Victoria, the Department of Social Security makes available welfare work assistance to the beneficiaries of the previously mentioned Departmental

programmes and specific groups such as migrants. The roles of the welfare workers engaged in giving assistance include the provision of services to :

(1) Individual clients. This includes psycho-social counselling, and helping clients to obtain benefits from other Departmental programmes. Of particular note is the extensive service provided to migrants where language skills and ethnic-cultural knowledge are relevant to providing assistance to an individual. Approximately 80,000 contacts are made with welfare staff each year.

(2) Groups or organisations. This includes aiding community groups and organisations to plan and develop services which either remedy problems common to many people, or are designed to prevent their occurrence in the first place. Basically it means helping people to develop their own resources.

#### *Interpreter services*

The Telephone Interpreter Service is a 24 hour service which migrants can ring to obtain advice or information in their own language or interpreting assistance by telephone. Also available through the Telephone Interpreter Service is a support staff of more than 270 on-call (part-time) interpreters, who are allocated by the Service to situations where interpreting is needed for a person to gain access to services in the private and public sectors.

Currently, the Telephone Interpreter Service receives more than 3,400 calls per month; 75 per cent of these calls are in five main languages (Greek, Yugoslav, Spanish, Italian, and Turkish); 50 per cent of these calls are initiated by individuals and the remainder by organisations. Approximately 550 individual interpreting services are provided per month by the on-call interpreters.

#### *Information services*

Through its Information Services Section, the Department of Social Security attempts to meet three objectives: servicing the planning and operating information needs within the Department itself, ensuring that the community at large is aware of its rights and entitlements to the various social security payments and services, and creating a dialogue which will enable the community to participate in welfare programmes.

To achieve these objectives, activities include arranging for Departmental speakers to present talks to various groups on social security matters, submitting regular advice columns on social security matters for publication in country and suburban newspapers, conducting surveys among welfare organisations on the suitability of Departmental leaflets and applications, providing a liaison service for different areas within the Department to publicise new developments, and answering inquiries by the public concerning Departmental programmes.

#### *Statistical summary*

##### VICTORIA—SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES

Programme	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Transfer payments to individual citizens—					
Age pensions—					
Number of pensioners	221,704	250,982	277,502	300,839	316,950
Amount paid (\$'000) (a)	n.a.	n.a.	306,714	432,555	576,850
Invalid pensions—					
Number of pensioners	32,575	34,244	35,392	38,257	42,044
Amount paid (\$'000) (a)	n.a.	n.a.	50,201	68,190	90,906
Widow's pensions—					
Number of pensioners	25,787	29,744	32,232	34,056	36,664
Amount paid (\$'000)	28,689	39,071	50,064	66,474	90,491
Funeral benefits—					
Number of claims granted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14,184	13,227
Amount paid (\$'000)	418	409	416	417	395

VICTORIA—SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES—*continued*

Programme	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Unemployment benefits—					
Number of benefits granted	62,890	67,401	54,213	175,596	187,393
Amount paid (\$'000)	6,721	12,074	14,635	66,361	128,634
Sickness benefits—					
Number of benefits granted	21,333	26,013	29,180	31,569	31,623
Amount paid (\$'000)	4,435	7,923	12,271	18,193	25,976
Special benefits—					
Number of benefits granted (b)	3,080	2,706	2,679	3,470	7,350
Amount paid (\$'000) (b)	641	1,010	1,606	2,560	4,032
States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,256	2,016
Supporting mother's benefit—					
Number of beneficiaries	..	..	5,638	7,511	9,275
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	8,964	15,786	25,678
Maternity allowances—					
Number of allowances granted	75,082	68,190	67,252	62,955	62,197
Amount paid (\$'000)	2,376	2,150	2,138	1,978	1,953
Family allowances—					
Children less than 16 years of age—					
Number of endowed families	511,947	517,152	520,542	525,211	528,017
Number of approved institutions	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	128	128
Number of endowed children in—					
Families	1,106,485	1,105,834	1,104,434	1,100,830	1,092,892
Institutions	5,673	5,756	5,617	4,651	4,302
Total amount paid (\$'000)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	56,129	66,696
Students aged 16 to 21 years—					
Number of endowed families	69,910	64,846	69,778	75,296	77,700
Number of approved institutions	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	32	32
Number of endowed children in—					
Families	78,216	72,054	78,491	85,581	88,800
Institutions	138	137	150	104	106
Total amount paid (\$'000)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6,756	7,216
Orphan's pensions—					
Number of guardians	..	..	n.a.	368	453
Number of institutions	..	..	n.a.	15	15
Number of orphans	..	..	691	687	810
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	107	291	415
Handicapped child's allowances—					
Number of claims granted	..	..	..	4,118	1,748
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	..	248	2,155
Grants to organisations to produce welfare services—					
Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act—					
Number of capital grants	55	35	34	45	38
Amount of grants (\$'000)	4,664	2,804	3,337	7,743	1,064
Personal Care Subsidy Act—					
Subsidies paid (\$'000)	525	994	1,440	2,283	2,514
Delivered Meals Subsidy Act—					
Expenditure (\$'000)	102	188	440	480	585
States Grants (Home Care) Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	148	630	568	642	3,647
Handicapped Persons Assistance Act—					
Number of grants approved	..	..	..	274	476
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	..	1,741	2,248
Homeless Persons Assistance Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	..	142	491

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

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

Further reference, 1976; History of social services, 1962; Sheltered employment assistance, 1969

### National health benefits

Information about the various types of benefits is set out on pages 760-3.

**Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs***Introduction*

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

*Disability and dependants pensions*

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

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

If a veteran's death is accepted as being service-related, or if, at the time of his death, he was receiving the Special Rate of disability pension, or the equivalent rate payable to certain double amputees, a war widow's (or defence widow's) pension is paid to his widow, and pensions are also paid for each child under 16 years of age or receiving full-time education regardless of age. Eligible war widows (and defence widows) also receive an additional payment known as a domestic allowance. There were 498,861 disability pensions payable to veterans, miscellaneous personnel, and their dependants at 30 June 1976, and the annual expenditure including allowances was \$340,838,904. Of these pensions, 129,851 were payable in Victoria and the annual expenditure was \$89,449,235.

*Service pensions*

In addition to compensatory payments for service-related incapacity and death, service pensions were introduced in 1936. This type of pension is paid to a veteran who has served in a theatre of war, and has either attained 60 years of age (55 years of age in the case of a female veteran) or who is permanently unemployable. It is subject to a means test unless the pensioner has attained 70 years of age. A service pension may also be paid to a veteran suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, irrespective of the area in which he served, and to a veteran of the Boer War. The wife of a service pensioner may also be eligible if she is not in receipt of a means test pension from the Commonwealth Department of Social Security. The same means test is applied to service pensions as to social security age or invalid pensions. Most service pensioners are also eligible to receive a wide range of medical and other fringe benefits for disabilities not related to their service.

*Medical care*

Medical treatment is provided for repatriation beneficiaries for all disabilities which have been accepted as related to service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is also provided for disabilities not related to service. A description of the types of service and institutions operated by the Department is set out on pages 773-4.

*Education and training*

With the assistance of a voluntary Education Board in each State, the Department administers the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme introduced in 1921. The object of this scheme is to encourage and assist eligible children to acquire standards of education compatible with their aptitudes and abilities and to prepare them for suitable vocations in life. Assistance is provided under the scheme for the children of veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related, or who, as a result of service, are blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated, or receive the Special Rate disability pension for pulmonary tuberculosis and are likely to receive that rate of pension for a period of three years.

*Re-establishment benefits for national servicemen and former regular servicemen*

Re-establishment loans may be granted, subject to certain conditions, to those former national servicemen who before call-up were engaged in business practice or agricultural occupations, or who, because of their call-up, were prevented from engaging in these occupations, and who need financial assistance for their re-establishment in civil life. The maximum amounts of the loans are: business and professional—\$5,000, and agricultural—\$10,000. Similar benefits are provided for former regular servicemen, subject to prescribed conditions.

*General assistance*

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

*Statistical summary*

## VICTORIA—DISABILITY AND SERVICE PENSIONS

Year	Veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans	Total pensions in effect	Amount paid during year
					\$'000
DISABILITY PENSIONS					
1971-72	57,056	73,676	16,868	147,600	57,464
1972-73	55,635	73,199	16,560	145,394	60,863
1973-74	53,823	70,647	16,328	140,798	67,458
1974-75	52,113	67,251	15,865	135,229	83,837
1975-76	50,422	63,904	15,525	129,851	89,249
SERVICE PENSIONS					
1971-72	14,822	3,685	687	19,194	12,075
1972-73	17,197	6,302	755	24,254	18,033
1973-74	19,874	7,707	743	28,324	26,532
1974-75	21,593	9,244	738	31,575	40,181
1975-76	24,165	11,418	715	36,298	55,141

Further reference, 1976

## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**Victorian Ministry of Social Welfare**

The *Social Welfare Act* 1970 established the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Social Welfare Department is administered by a Director-General. It comprises seven divisions each administered by a Director: Family Welfare, Youth Welfare, Regional Services, Prisons, Probation and Parole, Research and Statistics, and Training.



*Family Welfare Division*

The Family Welfare Division is responsible for the care of children needing to live apart from their parents, for family counselling, and for other services to prevent family breakdown.

Children may be admitted to the care of the Department by an order of the Children's Court. Grounds for such an order may be that a child is in need of care and protection, is uncontrolled, or has broken the law. Children may also be placed in the care of the Department through application by a parent or guardian to the Director-General. He must be satisfied that this will be in the best interests of the child.

Children are usually received in one of the four Departmental reception centres: Allambie and Baltara in Melbourne, Warrawee in Ballarat, and Miralee in Mildura. Normally the children are placed away from these centres after a short stay. Many of them are released to their parents or relatives, either immediately or at a later date.

Children may be placed in one of seven children's homes administered by the Department, each of which cares for about thirty children, in one of the sixty Departmental family group homes, in which four to eight children live in a family situation, in approved children's homes administered by voluntary agencies, or in foster care with private families. The Department's homes take account of the individual needs of each child and attempt to avoid an institutional atmosphere.

The development of foster family care has continued, with children going to foster homes for shorter periods while a family establishes itself, and returning home when this has been achieved. Two voluntary agencies have been approved by the Department to provide foster care for children.

While the children may be placed away from the Department, the Division still supervises their progress and interests. Social workers gain a thorough knowledge of individual children and their families and plan constructive programmes for them. After-care for children released to their own homes is an important part of the work.

The Family Counselling Section deals with the many diverse problems facing families who approach the Department, either by close contact for varying periods of time or by referral to an appropriate welfare agency.

Problems during 1976 included an increase in family accommodation difficulties, the difficulties faced by lone fathers caring for children, and a shortage of private placements for children.

The Family Assistance Section gives financial help to deserted wives, wives of prisoners, and unmarried mothers with dependent children in their care, who are waiting to become eligible for Commonwealth Government benefits. The Department also pays a subsidy to non-parents caring for children.

Family supportive grants are used to prevent children from coming into care for economic reasons and to facilitate the return to parents of children already in the care of the Department. Other supportive services being developed in the regions include financial counselling, family support units, homemaker services, and accommodation services.

The Department handles the adoption of children in its care and of children whose parent or guardian nominates the Director-General to arrange the adoption, or fails to nominate a private adoption agency. The number of couples seeking to become adoptive parents continues to markedly exceed the number of available children. Inter-country adoptions are mainly handled by the Child Care Service of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The Department acts as a second agency for applicants rejected by this Service.

Other responsibilities of the Department include the protection of children under 5 years of age who are placed away from home by their parents;

regulation of the employment of children under 15 years of age in street trading and entertainment; and the recovery of maintenance payments from parents of children in its care.

Legal guardianship of all migrant children up to 18 years of age who enter Victoria not in the care of a parent or adult relative has been delegated by the Commonwealth Minister of Social Security to the Victorian Director-General of Social Welfare.

The Family Welfare Division convenes several standing conferences for the general exchange of views between Departmental staff and voluntary agencies concerned with child care, for example, an Adoption Agencies Conference, a Conference of Approved Fostering Agencies, and a Conference on Scattered Family Group Homes. Officers of the Division are also members of a number of community liaison committees on welfare programmes.

#### *Youth Welfare Division*

The Youth Welfare Division deals with the social welfare problems of young people in the 15 to 21 years age group. The Division provides care and supervision for boys and girls in the care of the Department and for young people who have committed offences and were sentenced to detention in a youth training centre or directed to attend a youth welfare service.

The Division maintains five youth training centres: Turana, Langi Kal Kal, and Malmsbury for boys; Winlaton for girls; and Acheron, which functions as a holiday camp. There is one other youth training centre at Bayswater, managed by the Salvation Army, for boys.

The Social Work Section of the Division classifies teenagers entering Turana and Winlaton Youth Training Centres, assessing their individual problems and planning programmes in the institution and in the community which can help the boy or girl concerned.

In each youth training centre there are a number of programmes to suit the needs of the individual. These programmes aim at bringing about a more satisfactory adjustment to community living by encouraging social growth and by providing opportunities for education and training which are geared to individual levels of ability, maturity, and interest. Special efforts are made to maintain family relations; visits by parents are encouraged and regular weekend and special leave is granted to the trainees.

The Division maintains two hostels at Sunshine and Ivanhoe for the accommodation of young persons coming from Turana and Winlaton. The boys and girls are encouraged to become self-reliant and to find suitable private accommodation when they leave the hostel. The division also maintains five community-based youth welfare services. The Youth Welfare Service, Hawthorn, provides short-term non-residential care for boys between 14 and 17 years of age. They take part in group discussions and community service projects, and are individually assisted by counselling or in other ways to help them to make a more satisfactory adjustment to community living. The Youth Welfare Service, Brunswick, is similar to the Hawthorn Service in its basic philosophy, but also provides residential accommodation and caters for boys who experience problems at home, at school, or in their employment. The staff from Brunswick work closely with parents, teachers, and employers. The Youth Welfare Service, Windsor, is for girls and also includes a residential section. The Western Youth Welfare Service, Ascot Vale, serves young people from the west and north-west of the Melbourne metropolitan area. It conducts special programmes for the younger and older age groups, including an educational and employment programme for young people experiencing problems at school and work.

*Regional Services Division*

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

The programme has been progressively implemented over the last five years and is due to be completed in the next two years. Regional centres have now been opened in ten rural regions of Victoria and these centres are supported by sub-offices and regular visiting services to outlying towns and shires. Three regional centres have been opened in the Melbourne metropolitan area and serve the north-western suburbs, the north-eastern suburbs, and the outer-eastern suburbs. It is planned to open centres in the western suburbs and the Westernport region early in 1977, and to establish services in the remaining three metropolitan regions as quickly as possible.

The development of this programme is consistent with the Victorian Government's overall policy of regionalisation and with the world-wide trend towards localisation of the delivery of welfare services.

*Prisons Division*

The Prisons Division controls and supervises all persons detained in Victorian prisons. It aims to assist the rehabilitation of prisoners and provides training and welfare services operated by qualified staff. Work release schemes and attendance centres are recent innovations in the Division.

The Prisons Division maintains eleven prisons for men and one for women. Pentridge, at Coburg, is the main prison and holds more than half the number of male prisoners in Victoria. The Classification Centre is located there. Prisoners serving sentences of at least one year (or of at least six months if they are under 21 years of age) and all those who are eligible to be released on parole undergo testing and selection procedures and then appear before the Classification Committee which places them in the most appropriate institution.

Pentridge is divided into three separate prisons (Southern, Central, and Northern) which share general administrative and supply services. The Southern Prison holds those awaiting court hearing, short-term prisoners, and those receiving medical and psychiatric attention. The Central Prison is mainly for longer term prisoners. The Northern Prison has a division holding youths under 21 years of age and a division for longer term prisoners who are interested in educational activities. The Northern Prison also contains the school, and H Division which holds prisoners for security reasons.

Pentridge industries include the manufacture of number-plates for motor vehicles, brushes and brooms, a bakery, a textile mill for making denim and shirt material, tailoring of jackets and jeans, printing, carpentry, laundry, boot-making, and repairs, and an engineering shop for maintenance work. Many of these trades supply outside customers as well as the prison itself.

Ararat is the largest prison in Victoria outside Melbourne. It has tubular steel furniture, signwriting, and silkscreen printing industries. Prisoners are also employed in farming and reforestation. Beechworth has a carpenter's shop making a variety of timber products, a farm, and a large commercial pine plantation. Bendigo has a sheet-metal industry. Castlemaine has a large matmaking industry and a vegetable garden for the prison's own use. At Coorimungle the prisoners are employed in farming and a tree nursery. The prison has an accredited Guernsey cattle stud. At Dhurringile prisoners work on the farm and in the orchard. Geelong has garment and matmaking industries. Morwell River and Won Wron are reforestation prisons where prisoners engage in forestry work from seed-raising to tree-felling. Sale is a local reception centre and short-term prison where prisoners are occupied in matmaking or gardening. At Fairlea the women prisoners participate in arts and crafts, cooking, laundry, and sewing.

The Victorian Education Department appoints teachers for registered schools within the prison system that provide general education up to Higher School Certificate level. The main school is at Pentridge with others at Ararat, Beechworth, Bendigo, Geelong, and Fairlea, while a teacher visits Castlemaine weekly. Prisoners are also encouraged to take correspondence courses up to tertiary education level.

Prisoners may be given temporary leave when family circumstances require it. Each convicted prisoner is allowed two visits each month, and the Governor may grant extra visits. Rail vouchers for members of prisoners' families to visit the prison may be supplied by the Division, which aims to help the prisoner and his family in co-operation with voluntary and government organisations concerned with the welfare and after-care of prisoners. Chaplains are nominated by the major religious denominations and are appointed by the Victorian Government to the various prisons on either a full-time or part-time basis.

#### *Probation and Parole Division*

The functions of the Probation and Parole Division are to supervise persons subject to probation or supervision orders from the courts, or released on parole from youth training centres and prisons; and to provide, when requested by a court, reports and information on any person appearing before that court. The Division also reports annually on prisoners awaiting the Governor's pleasure, and on any other prisoner undergoing a sentence of imprisonment when so requested in writing by the Minister of Social Welfare.

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

The probation order states that the probationer will be "supervised" by a probation officer, and it is the first responsibility of the officer to see that the conditions of the order are adhered to. At the same time an attempt is made to assist the offender in developing his personal relationships and abilities to be able to live fruitfully in society. Contact between the probationer and the probation officer varies in intensity. Initially it tends to be more frequent and then gradually decreases. The seriousness of the offence committed, the individual's adjustment and progress, and the length of the probation period all affect the degree of supervision.

A breach of the conditions of probation is reported by the supervising probation officer to the Director of Probation and Parole who decides whether any action will be taken. If a probationer is taken to court it may result in a fine, a bond, admission to a new period of probation, or a sentence of imprisonment or detention in a youth training centre. On the other hand, the court may decide to take no action.

Victoria has a Youth Parole Board and an Adult Parole Board. These bodies have power to release on parole those who have been sentenced to imprisonment or detention but are eligible to be released on parole before the full sentence or detention is served. The Youth Parole Board can release on parole young

persons undergoing detention in a youth training centre at any time during the term of the sentence, while the Adult Parole Board may not consider release of a prisoner on parole until the minimum term of the sentence, less remissions, has been served.

The main concern of the Parole Boards is whether the person is a good risk on parole. The Boards base their decisions on the reports they receive from the parole service and the youth welfare and prison authorities. Medical and psychiatric reports are also submitted when necessary. The person's criminal history is a major consideration. The Board can either grant parole, defer consideration to a later date, or deny parole.

In the main, parole procedures are similar to probation procedures. On the day of release, the parolee is handed a parole order which contains conditions similar to those on probation orders. The parole officer helps the parolee to carry out these conditions and also assists with some of his problems, such as finding employment.

Most parolees complete parole successfully. The date of completion is when the full sentence set by the court normally expires. If the parolee is sentenced to another term of imprisonment, his parole as a rule is cancelled. In addition, the Boards can cancel parole at any time should the parolee breach a condition or should his behaviour be unsatisfactory.

The Division employs the services of men and women officers—stipendiary and honorary. Stipendiary officers are required to have an appropriate university or welfare qualification, while the honorary probation officers are selected citizens who supervise less difficult cases, usually first offenders, in their neighbourhood. Honorary probation officers discuss problems and treatment methods with stipendiary officers and are encouraged to attend a course of training at the Institute of Social Welfare.

#### *Research and Statistics Division*

The Research and Statistics Division conducts research into problems of social welfare and compiles statistics from all divisions of the Department. It co-operates in private research projects carried out by qualified people and supplies information where appropriate.

Statistics are collected for Divisional and Departmental use and for publication in works of reference. The Division includes a research library holding material relevant to the work of the Department.

#### *Training Division*

The Training Division operates as the Institute of Social Welfare and provides training courses covering the major aspects of welfare work undertaken by government and non-government agencies. It offers courses for the Diploma in Youth Leadership, Diploma and Certificate in Child Care, Certificate in Youth Work, Certificate in Welfare Work, and Certificate in Penology. In addition, there are courses of training for honorary probation officers, welfare volunteers, and for welfare officers to become field teachers of welfare students. Tuition in all courses offered by the Institute is free. Students undertaking a diploma or certificate course are eligible to apply for financial assistance under the Commonwealth Government's Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme. The Minister for Social Welfare also makes available some financial assistance to students in need who would not otherwise receive help.

A Social Welfare Training Council, comprising twelve members, exercises general supervision of courses. Among its members are the Directors of Training, Family Welfare, Youth Welfare, and Prisons. The other members are appointed by the Minister for Social Welfare for terms not exceeding three years.

## Ministry of Social Welfare statistics

VICTORIA—MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE  
(\$'000)

Particulars	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Revenue	753	768	940	812	938
Expenditure—					
Central Administration and Research and Statistics Division	781	(a)3,091	3,962	(b)88,999	(c)71,602
Regional Services Division	..	(a)	850	1,472	2,313
Family Welfare Division	9,000	10,427	8,958	13,886	17,983
Youth Welfare Division	3,257	3,290	4,059	5,281	6,477
Prisons Division	4,954	5,485	6,617	8,576	10,825
Probation and Parole Division	549	512	555	729	915
Training Division	201	277	313	425	672
Total expenditure	18,742	23,082	25,314	119,368	110,788
Net expenditure	17,989	22,314	24,374	118,555	109,850

(a) For 1972-73, the Regional Services Division was accounted for under Central Administration expenditures.

(b) 1974-75 figures include \$81,500,000 from the Hospital and Charities Fund and \$171,625 from the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund.

(c) 1975-76 figures include a reduced contribution from the Hospital and Charities Fund, from \$81,500,000 in 1974-75 to \$59,000,000 in 1975-76. No race meeting was held on Anzac Day and, therefore, no funds were made available from the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund.

VICTORIA—FAMILY ASSISTANCE : FAMILIES  
RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AT 30 JUNE

Type of case	Families receiving assistance		Children involved	
	1975	1976	1975	1976
Cases where the Commonwealth Government reimburses half of the expenditure—				
Deserted wives	1,065	1,104	2,363	2,407
Wives of prisoners	48	41	121	107
Single mothers	369	345	389	348
Deserted <i>de facto</i> wives	237	263	343	390
<i>De facto</i> wives of prisoners	19	9	31	18
Mothers with child (or children) not of marriage	..	3	..	7
Cases not subject to Commonwealth Government reimbursement—				
Assistance to people who care for children whose parents—				
Are deceased	124	137	143	161
Have deserted the child	386	427	597	650
Are in prison	21	28	48	62
Special benefits (a)	1	1	3	2
Total	2,270	2,358	4,038	4,152

(a) A deserted father receiving special benefits on the grounds of hardship.

## VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS

Organisation	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Social Welfare Department—					
Children placed during year	375	349	185	211	101
Legally finalised adoptions	445	302	250	209	173
Private agencies—					
Children placed during year	1,154	944	642	523	426
Legally finalised adoptions	1,043	1,101	915	537	460

VICTORIA—FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION AND YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION:  
ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES OF WARDS

Particulars	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Admissions during year	1,623	1,697	1,382	1,396	1,055
Discharges during year	1,644	1,977	1,661	1,687	1,001
Total wards at end of year—					
Males	4,265	4,121	3,994	3,832	4,009
Females	2,971	2,835	2,683	2,554	2,592

VICTORIA—PRISONS DIVISION : RECEPTIONS AND  
DISCHARGES OF PRISONERS

Particulars	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Receptions during year	16,695	17,508	11,245	9,857	9,591
Discharges during year	16,733	17,730	11,570	10,047	9,568
In prison at end of year—					
Males	2,287	2,063	1,741	1,561	1,566
Females	31	33	30	20	38
Number of prisons for—					
Males	12	12	12	12	(a)11
Females	1	1	1	1	1

(a) In addition, there were two attendance centres.

VICTORIA—PROBATION AND PAROLE DIVISION : PERSONS  
ON PROBATION AND PAROLE

Particulars	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Placed on probation or supervision during year	4,692	4,951	4,637	4,563	4,438
Completed probation or supervision during year	3,499	4,127	4,612	4,320	3,946
Probation or supervision cancelled during year	535	422	406	400	481
On probation or supervision at end of year—					
Males	5,026	5,291	4,930	4,704	4,725
Females	1,349	1,486	1,466	1,535	1,525
Released on parole during year	1,179	1,241	1,224	1,071	983
Completed parole during year	807	972	795	830	705
Parole cancelled during year	323	324	299	233	244
On parole at end of year—					
Males	1,018	968	1,106	1,111	1,145
Females	26	21	13	16	16

Further reference, 1976

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES

**Australian Red Cross Society**

*Activities*

The Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society is responsible for all the activities of the Society in Victoria. Red Cross is a voluntary organisation maintained by donations and subscriptions; it conducts an annual appeal for funds. The primary objects of the Society are: furnishing of aid to the sick and wounded, irrespective of nationality; rendering of assistance in the case of large-scale public disaster, calamity, or need; improvement of health; prevention of disease; and the mitigation of suffering in Australia and elsewhere. The services include:

(1) *Blood transfusion service.* Whole blood and blood derivatives are provided free of charge to all persons in need of them. Further details of this service can be found on page 798.

(2) *Transport.* Red Cross volunteer drivers cover nearly 2,000,000 kilometres each year taking handicapped children and adults to special schools, clinics, and hospitals, or elderly people on outings, etc.

(3) *Disaster and emergency relief services.* Red Cross plays a major role in times of bushfires and other disasters and emergencies. Teams of volunteers are trained to set up Red Cross posts whenever the need arises. In individual emergencies such as house fires, Red Cross provides essential items such as bedding, clothing, toilet requisites, etc.

(4) *Social work service.* A family counselling agency is available in both city and country areas to advise individuals and families with personal or social problems. Approximately 2,000 families are assisted each year.

(5) *Handcrafts.* All types of craftwork are taught at Red Cross centres, hospitals, and homes throughout Victoria to handicapped people.

(6) *Inquiry and Tracing Bureau.* This is a link in the international tracing service of the Red Cross. The Bureau handles hundreds of inquiries annually on behalf of people in Victoria, for news of relatives displaced by war, political disturbances, or large-scale disasters.

(7) *Home nursing equipment.* Items required for nursing patients at home, including wheelchairs and walking aids, are available on loan free of charge. Approximately 6,500 loans are made each year.

(8) *Community services.* Trained personnel carry out a wide range of services in hospitals, baby health centres, and geriatric homes, and to the aged and sick in their own homes, and assist with such services as the delivery of "meals-on-wheels".

#### *Hospital services*

Red Cross carries out a wide range of services in various types of hospitals throughout Victoria.

The Hospitals Visiting Service provides personal services to patients where families are not in a position to help. This service includes letter writing for incapacitated patients, spending time with the aged and lonely, and carrying out personal tasks, for example, banking and shopping. In a ward, such as in the respirator unit at Fairfield Hospital, such services are extensive.

In the repatriation hospitals, the Red Cross maintains centres with recreation and afternoon tea facilities. At the Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg, a next-of-kin flat provides accommodation for relatives of dangerously ill patients. Similar accommodation is provided at the Red Cross centres at Ballarat and Geelong and at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Book libraries are established at 124 hospitals. These are constantly renewed and volunteers take the books and magazines around the wards. Because of the increase in the number of geriatric wards, large print books have been added and are in constant demand. Red Cross also provides reading aids from simple book and magazine rests to automatic page turners.

A different type of library is the picture library of approximately 3,000 prints representing all schools of art. This service is designed for the relief of tedium for long-term patients in tuberculosis sanatoria and geriatric units of public hospitals and homes and hospitals for the aged.

Frames of a set type are made and provided to the hospital or home and volunteers assist the patients in choosing the prints they themselves like. These are changed regularly.

A specialised service carried out in mental hospitals, psychiatric clinics, and selected geriatric hospitals is the Music Therapy Service. From a library of 3,500 records representing a wide range of music, programmes are compiled and annotations provided for use by the occupational therapists and other hospital staff for various patient activities. At the hospitals nearer Melbourne, the four professional Red Cross music therapists present annotated and special programmes. Percussion groups, using tuned and untuned instruments, are conducted with selected patients at eleven hospitals, while music discussion groups are also conducted. A recent extension of this service has been the



sending of boxes of records and annotations to G Division at Pentridge Prison.

At Larundel Hospital, a beauty therapy service for women assists in their rehabilitation, imparts confidence, and raises morale. The service also includes talks on make-up and manicures.

At some hospitals in the Melbourne metropolitan area and country areas, trained volunteers work in the casualty and outpatients departments or assist in the wards or special clinics.

Referred patients from overseas or interstate needing assistance are met on arrival by air, rail, or sea.

The following two tables show details of the activities of Red Cross in Victoria during the years 1970-71 to 1974-75.

VICTORIA—RED CROSS SOCIETY: BLOOD BANK OPERATIONS

Particulars	Unit	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Blood donors on Metropolitan rolls	number	58,727	63,727	78,633	88,008	97,230
Blood donations collected	number	125,409	132,404	149,924	151,901	163,840
Blood distributed	units	86,261	88,323	99,829	103,367	103,178
Stable plasma protein solution (S.P.P.S.)	units	14,302	16,131	14,981	11,704	13,953

VICTORIA—RED CROSS SOCIETY: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
<b>Income—</b>					
Commonwealth and Victorian Government Grants	957,009	1,157,343	1,321,407	1,697,913	2,216,104
Annual appeal and fund raising	220,294	252,901	284,981	294,365	343,731
Donations—Red Cross branches and companies	393,138	407,789	457,892	490,877	588,972
Other	285,492	239,940	221,100	252,914	469,939
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1,855,933</b>	<b>2,057,973</b>	<b>2,285,380</b>	<b>2,736,069</b>	<b>3,618,746</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>					
Blood transfusion service	866,526	1,067,140	1,221,611	1,496,519	1,976,103
Hospital services	116,343	117,396	113,715	129,180	161,642
Handcraft therapy	73,320	82,000	85,060	104,723	129,916
Red Cross homes	202,899	210,171	232,558	304,869	353,723
Relief activities	28,642	32,895	50,822	37,909	45,820
Social work service	111,930	108,225	106,055	130,552	149,475
Other community services	80,696	86,086	96,308	151,009	183,579
Other	360,055	352,183	356,087	379,858	457,289
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,840,411</b>	<b>2,056,096</b>	<b>2,262,216</b>	<b>2,734,619</b>	<b>3,457,547</b>

Further reference, 1976 ; Blood Transfusion Service, 1971 ; Youth activities, 1972 ; Red Cross service corps, 1972 ; Music Therapy Service, 1974 ; Disaster relief services, 1975 ; Social work service, 1976

**Citizens' Advice Bureaux**

In the last decade Victoria has witnessed the establishment and rapid growth of the voluntary Citizens' Advice Bureau service. The purpose of this service is to make available accurate information and skilled advice on the many problems which people encounter in their daily lives, and to refer inquirers whom it cannot help to other organisations better able to do so. It is a service which operates independently of government at any level, is available to all, and is confidential and free.

Although the Citizens' Advice Bureaux are not a welfare service, a large proportion of the inquiries they receive concern welfare matters. People come to them seeking legal aid, advice on social security pensions or benefits, assistance with serious family and personal problems, emergency accommodation, and other similar problems.

The Citizens' Advice Bureau service had its origins in the United Kingdom early in the Second World War. The first Victorian bureau, modelled on the British service, was established on a pilot basis in the City of Melbourne in 1967, on the initiative of the Victorian Council of Social Service and the Victorian Family Council. Soon afterwards, Citizens' Advice Bureaux opened up in other municipalities, in every case as a result of local initiatives arising out of a concern for the needs of the area. Nine years later there were forty bureaux in operation, all but twelve of which were situated in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Between them they employed 1,392 volunteers and handled 42,000 inquiries during the year 1974-75.

The Citizens' Advice Bureau Service in Victoria is organised and staffed almost entirely by volunteers. Only in rare instances is any paid staff employed. Each bureau is run by an autonomous committee of local people who either represent local groups or serve in their own right. This committee is responsible for securing premises and funds, recruiting staff, publicising the service, and organising the work of the bureau. Such funds as the Citizens' Advice Bureaux have—and these are very limited—come mainly from voluntary donations, although the Social Welfare Department makes occasional small grants for special purposes and municipal councils frequently provide rent-free premises. The Social Welfare Department also makes premises available free of charge to the co-ordinating body, the Victorian Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, and since 1975 has made an annual grant of \$10,000 to the Association to enable it to maintain a small headquarters.

The volunteers who staff the Citizens' Advice Bureaux are carefully selected for the work they will perform and are required to attend both an intensive initial training course and subsequent in-service training sessions within the Citizens' Advice Bureau of their choice. Most volunteers are women with children of school age, or retired men. Consequently, Citizens' Advice Bureaux are usually open by day during school hours only, although many also provide one or two evening sessions a week and a few are open on Saturday mornings. Many have an out-of-hours automatic telephone answering service, which refers callers to the Personal Emergency Service, a 24-hour service under the auspices of the Mental Health Authority.

Most Citizens' Advice Bureaux find that they receive far more inquiries by telephone than from people who come to the bureau in person, but the reverse is true in a few bureaux with prominent and central premises.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux have fairly uniform procedures for helping their clients. A trained volunteer listens carefully to a client's inquiry or problem, if necessary in a private room. If, after reference to the bureau's information files, an answer cannot be given or some course of action suggested, the trained volunteer advises the client where to go for the required information or service; if there is more than one available alternative, the options are explained. If there are a number of aspects to the client's problem, advice is given on how best to combine the assistance available from different services so as to reach an effective overall solution.

About half of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in Victoria offer not only an information and referral service, but also a range of "community aid" or "neighbour care" services. Some of the more usual services are friendly visiting of the housebound; house and garden maintenance and shopping for the sick, widowed, and frail aged; transport (to hospitals, day care centres, or elderly citizens' clubs); and child minding. A few Citizens' Advice Bureaux provide more specialised services: a register of recommended tradesmen for all kinds of repairs and maintenance; English language classes for migrants; and a migrant hosting scheme, in which newly-arrived migrants are looked after during their first year in Australia either by an Australian family or by a well-established family from their own country of origin.

Many Citizens' Advice Bureaux also offer professional consultancy services such as legal aid (the most common as well as the most widely used) ; personal counselling; a migrant welfare service; and marriage or education counselling. Usually outside groups or consultants provide these services, using Citizens' Advice Bureaux premises and assisted by Citizens' Advice Bureaux volunteers, who make appointments and act as receptionists.

In many municipalities Citizens' Advice Bureau staff work closely with the municipal welfare officer and staff, to the benefit of both. The bureau is able to deal with many requests for information or assistance which might otherwise be directed to the welfare officer. Its community aid services supplement other services—such as “meals-on-wheels” and home help—which the municipal council provides, thus enabling the welfare officer to draw on a wider range of services to help clients. The welfare officer, in turn, is available for consultation and advice to volunteers who may be uncertain where to refer clients, and accepts referrals from the Citizens' Advice Bureau when social worker intervention is called for.

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

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

### Friendly societies

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1958 regulates the operations of friendly societies in Victoria. The societies eligible for registration are those which provide one or more of the benefits set out in section 5 of the Act, and those which provide such other benefits as a law officer of the Crown certifies to be of mutual benefit to members and to which the facilities afforded by the Act should be extended. The latter are known as Specially Authorised Societies. Those societies which periodically close their funds, discharge their liabilities, and divide their assets, are known as Dividing Societies.

The benefits referred to include periodical payments during sickness, old age, and infirmity, as well as lump sum payments on death or on the attainment of a specified age (endowment benefits). They also include payments for hospital, medical, medicinal, and dental expenses.

### VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: FUNDS (\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Ordinary societies (a)—					
Sick, funeral, and non-contributory endowment funds	19,173	19,429	19,984	20,719	21,040
Whole of life, endowment, and other assurance funds	6,705	8,444	10,722	13,095	15,238
Medical services funds	4,617	3,735	1,571	(b)15	935
Hospital benefit funds	7,430	8,370	8,781	9,539	10,145
Medicine, management, and other funds	6,378	6,883	7,651	8,059	8,944
Dividing and other societies	1,534	1,786	1,926	2,117	2,442
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>45,837</b>	<b>48,647</b>	<b>50,635</b>	<b>53,544</b>	<b>58,744</b>

(a) Societies which provide the customary benefits, namely, sick pay, funeral, medicinal, medical, and hospital benefits.

(b) Medical funds decreased substantially in 1972-73.

## VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: MEMBERSHIP, ETC.

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
<b>ORDINARY FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (a)</b>					
Number of societies	20	21	21	20	20
Number of branches	1,086	1,075	1,046	1,034	1,023
Number of members contributing for—					
Sick and funeral benefits (b)	100,629	100,124	99,155	98,986	97,911
Medical services (b)	266,074	272,999	278,251	297,468	310,302
Hospital benefits (b)	287,034	292,596	288,847	305,824	321,764
Number of widows registered for funeral benefits	8,216	8,888	9,515	9,273	10,349
Number of whole of life and endowment assurance benefits in force	26,799	29,954	34,148	37,952	39,318
<b>DIVIDING AND OTHER SOCIETIES</b>					
Number of societies	102	102	94	89	84
Number of members	50,558	48,699	47,960	48,458	47,712
<b>ALL SOCIETIES</b>					
Number of weeks for which sick pay was allowed	364,766	370,555	354,374	343,533	312,887
Number of deaths of sick and funeral benefit members	2,405	2,439	2,328	2,340	2,208
Number of deaths of wives and widows	654	753	647	666	675

(a) Societies which provide the customary benefits, namely, sick pay, funeral, medicinal, medical, and hospital benefits.

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

VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE  
(\$'000)

Particulars	1969-70	1970-71(a)	1971-72(a)	1972-73(a)	1973-74(a)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Ordinary societies (b)—					
Sick, funeral, and non-contributory endowment funds	1,440	1,427	1,554	1,619	1,608
Whole of life, endowment, and other assurance funds	2,212	2,580	3,572	4,102	4,412
Medical services funds	9,152	11,301	15,147	17,303	22,939
Hospital benefit funds	10,728	10,592	16,740	18,851	24,358
Medicine, management, and other funds	1,866	1,857	2,761	2,711	3,517
Dividing and other societies	779	822	903	759	922
Less inter-fund transfers	287	429	288	458	625
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>25,890</b>	<b>28,150</b>	<b>40,389</b>	<b>44,887</b>	<b>57,131</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Ordinary societies (b)—					
Sick, funeral, and non-contributory endowment funds	955	1,165	998	884	1,117
Whole of life, endowment, and other assurance funds	813	896	1,350	1,747	2,269
Medical services funds	8,584	12,550	16,770	18,831	22,019
Hospital benefit funds	9,685	10,270	15,829	18,082	23,751
Medicine, management, and other funds	1,429	1,498	2,031	2,280	2,608
Dividing and other societies	725	641	748	725	778
Less inter-fund transfers	287	429	288	458	625
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>21,904</b>	<b>26,591</b>	<b>37,438</b>	<b>42,091</b>	<b>51,917</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over expenditure</b>	<b>3,986</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>5,214</b>

(a) Figures since the year 1970-71 have been compiled on a "revenue" basis of "income and expenditure" whereas previous years were compiled on a "cash" basis of "receipts and expenditure (payments)".

(b) Societies which provide the customary benefits, namely, sick pay, funeral, medicinal, medical, and hospital benefits.

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

Nature of benefit	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
Sick pay	590	580	567	580	558
Funeral benefits	248	262	270	280	278
Non-contributory endowment benefits	109	233	254	95	138
Whole of life, endowment, and other assurance benefits	641	596	863	1,200	1,730
Medical services—					
Society benefit	4,178	6,230	7,743	8,348	9,987
Government subsidy	3,537	5,390	7,921	9,256	10,256
Hospital benefits—					
Society benefit	7,270	8,093	13,191	15,270	20,546
Government subsidy	1,192	1,169	1,335	1,414	1,487
Medicine	246	(b)44	(b)34	(b)39	(b)44

(a) Excludes specially authorised societies.

(b) Represents society benefits only, exclusive of medicine assessments paid to dispensaries, which had been included in previous years' figures for "Medicine".

#### Dispensaries

At the end of 1973-74, thirty United Friendly Societies' Dispensaries were registered under the Friendly Societies Act as separate friendly societies. The chief object for which the dispensaries are established is to provide the societies with a supply of medicine and medical and surgical appliances for members and for persons claiming through members. The number of members connected with dispensaries at the end of 1973-74 was 72,896. During 1973-74 the income of the dispensaries was \$4,640,938 and their expenditure was \$4,575,267. The assets and liabilities of dispensaries at the end of 1973-74 amounted to \$4,072,353 and \$771,455, respectively.

#### Specially authorised societies

At the end of 1973-74 there were four societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act which did not provide any of the customary benefits of friendly societies. Their registration was specially authorised under section 6 of the Friendly Societies Act. These four societies are known as Total Abstinence Societies. Their membership at the end of 1973-74 was 155 and their funds amounted to \$319,574.

#### Co-operative organisations

Information on co-operative organisations, previously set out in this section of the *Year Book*, can now be found on pages 615-7.

**Voluntary social services, 1965 ; Old People's Welfare Council, 1966 ; Voluntary child welfare, 1967 ; Voluntary social welfare work for the physically handicapped, 1968 ; Care of the elderly, 1969 ; Rehabilitation, 1970 ; Employment of the handicapped, 1970 ; Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, 1970 ; Victorian School for Deaf Children, 1971 ; Volunteer services for the mentally handicapped, 1972 ; Social welfare activities in local government, 1974 ; Brotherhood of St Laurence, 1975 ; Consumer participation in voluntary social welfare, 1975 ; Life Line, 1976 ; Youth Line, 1976**

#### RECREATION\*

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

##### General

The Victorian Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation came into existence with the proclamation of the Youth, Sport and Recreation Act on 19 December 1972.

\*It is intended to publish a separate chapter in the *Victorian Year Book* on sport and recreation in Victoria beginning with the 1978 edition.

Broadly, the objects of the Department are to :

- (1) Assist in the growth of the individuality and character of the youth of Victoria by encouraging the involvement of youth in community life and assisting and co-ordinating youth services and activities affecting youth ;
- (2) promote the fitness and general health of the people of Victoria by encouraging participation in sport and assisting and co-ordinating the activities of government agencies, municipalities, and any other persons or bodies concerned with sport ; and
- (3) improve the facilities available to people for their leisure-time pursuits by encouraging and assisting with the provision of additional opportunities for recreation for individuals and family units.

#### *Sports and Recreation Fund*

Subsidies are available to municipal councils for the development of sporting and recreational facilities. Projects are subsidised on a \$1 for \$1 basis, except for swimming pools which are subsidised on a \$3 for \$1 basis up to \$36,000 subsidy and thereafter \$1 for \$1. Councils are requested to determine the priorities for development of sporting and recreational facilities within their boundaries and the Department endeavours to assist each council with the first priority at the earliest opportunity.

Councils must show evidence that they have consulted the local community for which they are responsible and have planned their developments in accordance with the actual need for the facilities concerned. It is essential that applications for such subsidies show sound planning for the management and operation of the facilities proposed. Subsidies, once approved, are allocated over a period of years depending on the nature of the project and the amount of subsidy involved.

Subsidies are available to councils outside the normal priorities for walking tracks, fun and fitness trails, and cycling paths. A grant of \$7,500 per annum is also available to municipalities towards the employment of a municipal recreation officer.

#### *Youth Fund*

In addition to general grants available to recognised youth organisations, the Department also makes subsidies available for the construction, extension, remodelling, repair, and renovation of buildings and property used or to be used essentially for youth work. Subsidies are available on a \$1 for \$1 basis up to a maximum of \$10,000. It is an essential criterion for such subsidies that the facilities constructed are to be available for general community use where practicable and that they be utilised on a full-time basis in accordance with the needs of the local communities in which they are constructed.

#### *Australian Rules Football Fund*

The Australian Rules Football Fund has been established to promote junior football. The Fund is used to finance programmes recommended by the Junior Football Council.

#### *Racing*

The Department is responsible for the administration of the *Racing Act* 1958. All matters affecting racing, trotting, greyhound racing, or the conduct of any sports gathering with betting facilities are handled by the Racing Division. The supervision of totalisator operations both on course and through the Totalizator Agency Board system is a key function of this Division. The Racecourses Licences Board and the Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board, both statutory bodies established under the Racing Act, provide financial assistance to race clubs for permanent improvements at racecourses and greyhound tracks.

*Boxing*

The *Professional Boxing Act 1975* came into operation on 1 March 1976 to regulate and control the conduct of professional boxing contests. All professional boxers and promoters of these contests are required to be registered with the Department.

**Further reference, 1976**

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17.10 Persons covered by hospital and medical expenditure assistance schemes