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CHAPTER IX. WELFARE SERVICES.

A. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICE BENEFITS. *

§ 1. Introduction.

Commonwealth social service benefits are provided under the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947-1951 which came into operation on 1st July, 1947. This Act provided for the repeal of the existing laws relating to age and invalid pensions, maternity allowances, child endowment, widows' pensions and unemployment and sickness benefits, and for the immediate re-enactment of the necessary provisions for the grant and payment of these benefits under a unified law. Its more important effects were the elimination of obsolete provisions, the removal of anomalies, the amalgamation of like provisions, and the modernizing and grouping of the legislation so that it presented a symmetrical part of a well-defined pattern of social security. The history of the variations in the rates and conditions of age and invalid pensions, maternity allowances, child endowment, widows' pensions and unemployment and sickness benefits prior to 1st July, 1947 is referred to in earlier issues of the Official Year Book.

A summary of the Commonwealth expenditure in each State on Social and Health Services provided from the National Welfare Fund, is shown in the following table:—

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, 1950-51. (£'000.)

Social and Health Services.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Age and Invalid Pensions	20,856	11,958	7,185	4,300	3,438	1,783	49,520
Funeral Benefits	104	68	32	22	19	9	254
Child Endowment	16,872	10,948	6,974	3,782	3,270	1,734	(c) 43,585
Maternity Allowances	1,149	807	468	277	239	110	(d) 3,057
Widows' Pensions	1,972	1,196	794	389	316	161	4,828
Unemployment and Sickness Benefits	372	304	128	77	121	35	1,037
Hospital Benefits	2,617	1,567	1,022	553	522	255	6,536
Tuberculosis Campaign (e)	520	1,006	180	193	236	131	(f) 2,275
Community Rehabilitation	60	93	54	57	39	7	310
Pharmaceutical Benefits	997	799	464	302	248	82	(g) 2,930
National Health Service—							
Medical Benefits to Pensioners	38	13	7	9	7	1	75
Nutrition of Children	36	..	..	..	..	..	36
Miscellaneous	27	13	30	6	10	10	(h) 131
Mental Institution Benefits	203	147	..	34	13	9	406
Rental Rebates under Housing Agreement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Total	45,823	28,919	17,338	10,001	8,478	4,336	114,983

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Includes payments abroad, £5,000. (d) Includes payments abroad, £1,000. (e) Includes allowances and reimbursements to the States. (f) Includes administration, £9,000. (g) Includes administration, £38,000. (h) Includes administration, £35,000.

§ 2. Age and Invalid Pensions.

1. **General.**—Age pensions are payable to men, 65 years of age and over, and women, 60 years of age and over, who have resided in Australia for a continuous period of 20 years. Any periods of absence during which a person's home remained in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances, are counted as residence. Absence in a Territory of the Commonwealth does not break continuity of residence.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons, 16 years of age and over, who have resided in Australia for a continuous period of five years, and who are permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind. For the purpose of the residential qualification, the position in regard to absences is the same as for age pensions. A person is deemed to be

* Rates shown in this division were operating up to October, 1952. For rates operating subsequently, see Appendix to this volume.

permanently incapacitated for work if the degree of his permanent incapacity is not less than 85 per cent. The claimant must have become permanently incapacitated or permanently blind while in Australia or during a temporary absence from Australia, but this condition is waived if he has resided in Australia for not less than 20 years (continuous or otherwise), which may be partly before or partly after the occurrence of the permanent incapacity or blindness.

2. **Persons Disqualified.**—A pension is not payable to:—an alien (except a woman who, prior to marriage, was a British subject); a person who has deprived himself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension; a person in receipt of income of £234 per annum or more (blind persons £676 per annum) or £468 per annum for a married couple (£832 per annum where both husband and wife are blind); a person who owns property, apart from his permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £1,000 (£2,000 for married persons); a person who is not deserving of a pension; a person who is not of good character or who has deserted his wife (or her husband) or children for six months or upwards immediately preceding the date of the claim (age pension only); or a person under 21 years of age who is adequately maintained by his parents (invalid pension only).

3. **Aboriginal Natives.**—Pensions may be granted to aboriginal natives of Australia who have been granted exemption from State control laws, or who, in any State where exemption is not provided for, are considered suitable persons to receive pensions by virtue of character, standard of intelligence and social development.

4. **Pension Rate.**—The maximum rate of pension from 1st November, 1951, is £156 per annum. (*See footnote, page 307.*)

5. **Effect of Income.**—Permissible income is £78 per annum. Any income in excess of this amount is deducted from the pension. The income of a married person is deemed to be half the total income of husband and wife except where they are legally separated or in certain other circumstances. Permissible income for blind persons, whether single or married, is £520 per annum. Any excess income is deducted from the pension. Where both husband and wife are blind, half the amount of any income in excess of £520 per annum is deducted from each pension. "Income" does not include gifts or allowances from children or parents, benefits from friendly societies, payments in respect of illness, infirmity or old-age from any trade union, the value of State food relief, child endowment or other payments for or in respect of children, benefits under the Commonwealth Hospital Benefits, Pharmaceutical Benefits and interest on Commonwealth war gratuities.

6. **Effect of Property.**—The rate of pension is reduced by £1 per annum for every complete £10 of that portion of the net value of property which exceeds £100 but does not exceed £450, and by £2 per annum for every complete £10 of the remainder (if any) of the net value of the property up to £1,000. The value of property of a married person is deemed to be half the total value of property of husband and wife.

The value of a home, furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to £750) of any life assurance policies, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, the present value (up to £750) of any reversionary interest, the value of any property from the estate of a deceased person which has not been received and the amount of any Commonwealth war gratuity are disregarded in the computation of property.

7. **Claimants Receiving War Pensions.**—A person receiving a war pension may be granted an age or invalid pension in addition to the war pension, but the total amount payable in respect of the two pensions must not exceed £208 per annum. In the case of a married couple where husband and wife each receive a civil pension (age or invalid, wife's allowance or service pension), the total amount which may be received in respect of war pensions and civil pensions is £377 per annum; in other cases of married persons the limit is £305 10s. per annum. Where the war pension (or pensions) and the civil pension (or pensions) together exceed the appropriate limit, the civil pension (or pensions) is (or are) reduced by the amount of the excess, but the pensioner is permitted to have other income to bring the total war pension and civil pension payments, plus the other income, up to the appropriate limit of income plus pension, £208 per annum for a single person or £416 per annum for a married couple, both qualified for pensions.

8. **Inmates of Institutions.**—A pensioner who is an inmate of a benevolent asylum is paid £54 12s. per annum of his pension and the balance of the pension is paid to the institution for his maintenance.

9. **Wives' Allowances.**—An allowance, not exceeding £78 per annum, may be granted to the wife of an invalid pensioner (or an age pensioner who is permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind) if she is living with her husband and is not receiving an age or invalid pension or a service pension. The rate of the allowance is affected by income and property on the same basis as an age or invalid pension.

10. **Childrens' Allowances.**—An allowance of £29 18s. per annum in respect of one child under the age of 16 years may be granted to the wife of an invalid pensioner living with her husband. The allowance may also be granted to any invalid pensioner who has the custody, care and control of a child under the age of 16 years, but where both husband and wife are invalid pensioners (living together) the child's allowance is payable only to the wife.

11. **Rehabilitation of Invalid Pensioners.**—The scheme for the rehabilitation of invalid pensioners, by which invalid pensioners may be given suitable treatment and vocational training at the Commonwealth's expense with a view to enabling them to learn some suitable craft or occupation whereby they may eventually become self-supporting, came into operation from the 10th December, 1948. The cases selected for treatment and training are those in which the pensioner's disability is remediable and where there are reasonable prospects of his engaging in a suitable vocation within two years after the commencement of treatment or training.

During the period of treatment payment of the pension is continued, and when vocational training is commenced the pension is suspended and, in its place, the trainee is paid a rehabilitation allowance at a rate equivalent to the rate of invalid pension (including any wife's or child's allowance) for which he is qualified, plus a training allowance of £1 5s. per week. Where it is necessary for a trainee to live away from home for the purpose of receiving training, an additional allowance is paid. The cost of fares regularly incurred by the pensioner in travelling for the purpose of receiving treatment or training may also be paid by the Commonwealth. A pensioner undergoing treatment or training may be provided with any artificial replacements, surgical aids and appliances and with such books, equipment and tools of trade (costing not more than £20) as are required for his treatment or training or to enable him to engage in employment. The pensioner, however, is required to pay the cost of any articles which he retains for his own use, but payment may be made by small instalments after he has commenced employment.

If, in any case, the treatment or vocational training of a pensioner does not result in his being able to engage in employment, his right to continuance of his invalid pension is not thereby prejudiced in any way.

The grant or continuance of an invalid pension may be refused unless the claimant or pensioner undergoes such treatment or training as the Director-General of Social Services considers is reasonable for him to undergo, having regard to the pensioner's age and physical and mental capacity and to the facilities available. During the year 1950-51 the number of pensioners examined was 11,135, of whom 782 were accepted for treatment, and 495 were placed in employment.

12. **Funeral Benefits.**—From 1st July, 1943 a funeral benefit of up to £10 has been payable to the person who has paid, or is liable to pay, the cost of the funeral of an age or invalid pensioner or of a claimant who, but for his death, would have been granted an age or invalid pension. Where the cost of the funeral has been partly met by payment from a contributory funeral benefit fund of an organization other than a friendly society, funeral benefit is payable to the extent of the amount (not above £10) by which the cost of the funeral exceeded the amount paid from the fund. A funeral benefit is not payable to a person administering a contributory funeral benefit fund.

13. Rates of Pension Payable.—The following statement shows the rates of pension at 1st July, 1909 and the rates as they have been varied since that date :—

MAXIMUM RATES OF PENSION PAYABLE.

(£ s. d.)

Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable—		Limit of Income including Pension.	
	Annual Rate.	Weekly Equivalent.	Annual Rate.	Weekly Equivalent.
1st July, 1909	26 0 0	0 10 0	52 0 0	1 0 0
12th October, 1916	32 10 0	0 12 6	58 10 0	1 2 6
1st January, 1920	39 0 0	0 15 0	65 0 0	1 5 0
13th September, 1923	45 10 0	0 17 6	78 0 0	1 10 0
8th October, 1925	52 0 0	1 0 0	84 10 0	1 12 6
23rd July, 1931	45 10 0	0 17 6	78 0 0	1 10 0
13th October, 1932(a)	39 0 0	0 15 0	71 10 0	1 7 6
26th October, 1933	45 10 0	0 17 6	78 0 0	1 10 0
4th July, 1935 (b)	46 16 0	0 18 0	79 6 0	1 10 6
24th September, 1936	49 8 0	0 19 0	81 18 0	1 11 6
9th September, 1937	52 0 0	1 0 0	84 10 0	1 12 6
26th December, 1940	54 12 0	1 1 0	87 2 0	1 13 6
3rd April, 1941 (b)	55 18 0	1 1 6	88 8 0	1 14 0
11th December, 1941	61 2 0	1 3 6	93 12 0	1 16 0
2nd April, 1942(b)	62 8 0	1 4 0	94 18 0	1 16 6
2nd April, 1942(c)	65 0 0	1 5 0	97 10 0	1 17 6
1st October, 1942(b)	66 6 0	1 5 6	98 16 0	1 18 0
7th January, 1943(b)	67 12 0	1 6 0	100 2 0	1 18 6
1st April, 1943(b)	68 18 0	1 6 6	101 8 0	1 19 0
19th August, 1943(b)	70 4 0	1 7 0	102 14 0	1 19 6
25th November, 1943(b)(d)	68 18 0	1 6 6	101 8 0	1 19 0
25th November, 1943(d)	70 4 0	1 7 0	102 14 0	1 19 6
5th July, 1945	84 10 0	1 12 6	117 0 0	2 5 0
13th August, 1946	84 10 0	1 12 6	136 10 0	2 12 6
3rd July, 1947	97 10 0	1 17 6	149 10 0	2 17 6
21st October, 1948	110 10 0	2 2 6	188 10 0	3 12 6
2nd November, 1950	130 0 0	2 10 0	208 0 0	4 0 0
1st November, 1951(e)	156 0 0	3 0 0	234 0 0	4 10 0

(a) Additional pension of £6 10s. per annum (2s. 6d. per week) was payable to a pensioner with no income. Pensioners with income of less than 2s. 6d. per week were paid additional pension of 2s. 6d. less the amount of income. (b) Variation according to rise in retail price index-number. (c) Increase paid on 9th July, 1942, retrospective to 2nd April, 1942. (d) Rate restored to £70 4s. per annum under National Security (Supplementary) Regulation 112A—Statutory Rule 315 of 1943. (e) See footnote, page 307.

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

14. Age Pensions.—(i) *Number in force.* At 30th June, 1950, there were 334,923 age pensions in force. During 1950–51, 34,842 age pensions claims were granted and 5,563 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, while 32,522 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The net increase for the year was 7,883 and the total in force at 30th June, 1951, was 342,806.

(i) *Sexes of Age Pensioners—States.* Of the age pensioners at 30th June, 1951, 116,222 (or 34 per cent.) were males, and 226,584 (or 66 per cent.) were females. Details for each State are as follows :—

AGE PENSIONS : SEXES OF PENSIONERS AT 30th JUNE, 1951.

State.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Masculinity.(a)
New South Wales (b)	50,289	91,369	141,658	55.04
Victoria	26,268	59,942	86,210	43.82
Queensland	17,069	31,006	48,075	55.05
South Australia (c)	9,630	21,368	30,998	45.07
Western Australia	8,967	15,350	24,317	58.42
Tasmania	3,999	7,549	11,548	52.97
Total—30th June, 1951	116,222	226,584	342,806	51.29
„ 1950	115,356	219,567	334,923	52.54

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) *Age and Conjugal Condition of Age Pensioners.* The recorded ages of the 34,842 persons (12,395 males and 22,447 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1950-51 varied considerably, ranging from 6,426 at age 60 to one at age 103, but 25,966 were in the 60-70 group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows:—Males—single, 1,630; married, 8,541; and widowed, 2,224; Females—single, 3,347; married, 10,363; and widowed, 8,737.

15. *Invalid Pensions.*—(i) *Number in force.* The number of invalid pensioners decreased from 73,494 in 1949-50 to 68,918 in 1950-51, a decrease of 4,576. Total pensions granted during the year were 8,166, while 7,179 pensions ceased through cancellations or deaths, and 5,563 were transferred to the age pension list.

(ii) *Sexes of Invalid Pensioners—States.* Of the 68,918 persons in receipt of invalid pensions at 30th June, 1951, 37,580 (or 55 per cent.) were males, and 31,338 (or 45 per cent.) were females. Details for each State are as follows:—

INVALID PENSIONS : SEXES OF PENSIONERS AT 30th JUNE, 1951.

State.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Masculinity.(a)
New South Wales (b)	18,321	14,388	32,709	127.34
Victoria	7,443	6,534	13,977	113.91
Queensland	5,947	4,793	10,740	124.08
South Australia (c)	2,211	2,212	4,423	99.95
Western Australia	2,199	1,985	4,184	110.73
Tasmania	1,459	1,426	2,885	102.31
Total—30th June, 1951	37,580	31,338	68,918	119.92
„ 1950	39,601	33,893	73,494	116.84

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) *Age and Conjugal Condition of Invalid Pensioners.* The recorded ages of the 8,166 persons (4,835 males and 3,331 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1950-51 varied from 16 to 87, 4,028 or 49 per cent. being in the 45-59 years age-group.

The conjugal condition of persons to whom invalid pensions were granted during the year was as follows:—Males—single, 1,581; married, 2,963; and widowed, 291; Females—single, 1,490; married, 1,283; and widowed, 558.

16. *Age and Invalid Pensions : Payments and Annual Liability.*—Separate particulars of the payments to age and invalid pensioners are not available but the total payments in 1950-51 in each State together with the annual liability of each class of pensioner at 30th June, 1951 are shown in the following table:—

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS : PAYMENTS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY.

(£.)

State.	Total Payments Age and Invalid Pensions, 1950-51.(a)	Annual Liability at 30th June, 1951.		
		Age Pensions.	Invalid Pensions.	Total.
New South Wales (b)	20,855,983	17,374,292	4,103,191	21,477,483
Victoria	11,958,534	10,785,428	1,741,145	12,526,573
Queensland	7,184,550	6,044,218	1,371,027	7,415,245
South Australia (c)	4,300,170	3,875,078	562,897	4,437,975
Western Australia	3,438,435	3,025,574	523,365	3,548,939
Tasmania	1,782,613	1,409,369	362,092	1,771,461
Total—1950-51	49,520,285	42,513,959	8,663,717	51,177,676
1949-50	44,557,161	35,190,935	7,838,078	43,029,013

(a) Includes amounts paid to Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals for the maintenance of 5,644 pensioners, and 18,892 allowances to wives of invalid pensioners. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

The actual sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in the financial year 1950-51, apart from the cost of administration but including the amount paid to asylums and hospitals for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, was £49,520,285 (£5 19s. 2d. per head of mean population). In 1949-50 it was £44,557,161 (£5 10s. 8d. per head of mean population).

17. Summary.—The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions and approximate cost of administration for the five years 1938-39 and 1946-47 to 1950-51 :—

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Pensioners at End of Year.				Amount Paid in Pensions.	Total Payment to Pensioners and Institutions. (b)	Cost of Administration (approximate).	Cost of Administration per £100 paid to Pensioners and Institutions (approximate).	Average Fort-nightly Pension as at 30th June.
	Age.		Invalid.	Total.					
	No.	Est. No. per 1,000 of persons eligible on age qualification. (a)							
			No.	No.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	s. d.
1939	232,836	376	88,812	321,648	15,798,038	15,991,782	128,000	0 16 0	38 5
1947	290,173	375	68,277	358,450	29,295,099	29,416,673	254,504	0 17 4	62 8
1948	302,854	381	73,073	375,927	36,376,104	36,526,395	309,146	0 16 11	71 11
1949	321,327	392	76,056	397,383	41,535,907	41,693,680	399,304	0 19 2	81 5
1950	334,923	395	73,494	408,417	44,354,253	44,557,161	493,955	1 2 2	81 1
1951	342,806	395	68,918	411,724	49,307,690	49,520,285	(c)	(c)	95 7

(a) Based on an estimate of the aggregate of males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over at 30th June of each year. (b) Includes allowances to wives of invalid pensioners payable from the 8th July, 1943, but excludes funeral benefits in respect of deaths of pensioners, £209,349 in 1946-47, £209,588 in 1947-48; £252,479 in 1948-49; £245,822 in 1949-50; and £243,058 in 1950-51. (c) Not available.

§ 3. Maternity Allowances.

1. **General.**—A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who, at the date of giving birth to a child, is residing in Australia or is in Australia and intends to remain. The allowance is payable in respect of a birth which occurs in Australia or on board a ship proceeding from a port in Australia or a Territory of the Commonwealth to another port in Australia or a Territory of the Commonwealth. The allowance is also payable in respect of a birth which occurs on board a ship proceeding to Australia, provided the mother receives no maternity benefit in respect of the birth from the country from whence she came. Payment may be made in respect of the birth of a still-born child, or a child which lives for less than twelve hours, if the period of intra-uterine life of the child was at least 5½ calendar months. There is no means test.

2. **Alien Mothers.**—Payment may be made to an alien mother if she was a British subject prior to her marriage, or if she or her husband resided in Australia for at least twelve months immediately prior to the birth of the child. Payment in respect of a

birth which occurs within twelve months of the mother's arrival in Australia may be made at the end of that twelve months, but may be made immediately if the mother is likely to remain in Australia.

3. **Aboriginal Natives.**—Maternity allowances may be paid only to those aboriginal natives of Australia who have been granted exemption from State control laws or who, in any State where exemption is not provided for, are considered suitable persons to receive the allowance by virtue of character, standard of intelligence and social development.

4. **Amount Payable.**—From 1st July, 1947, the amount of a maternity allowance has been £15 where there are no other children; £16 where there are one or two other children; and £17 10s. where there are three or more other children. "Other children" means children under the age of sixteen years who were in the custody, care and control of the claimant on the date of the birth in respect of which the claim is made. The amount payable is increased by £5 in respect of each additional child born at a birth. Payment of £5 on account of a maternity allowance may be made available, upon application, within a period of four weeks prior to the expected date of birth. The balance is payable immediately after the birth.

5. **Persons Temporarily Abroad.**—Maternity allowances may be paid, under certain conditions, to persons ordinarily resident in Australia who are temporarily abroad.

6. **Summary.**—The following table gives details of the maternity allowance claims paid and rejected and of the amount paid since the inception and for the six years 1938-39 and 1946-47 to 1950-51 :—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : SUMMARY.

Year.	Claims Paid.	Claims Rejected.	Amount Paid.	Cost of Administration (approximate).	Cost per £100 allowance paid (approximate).
	No.	No.	£	£	£ s. d.
1938-39 ..	80,916	6,272	436,614	16,659	3 17 8
1946-47 ..	191,994	636	3,026,459	23,000	0 15 2
1947-48 ..	177,566	247	2,854,018	22,000	0 15 5
1948-49 ..	177,955	235	2,828,849	24,000	0 17 0
1949-50 ..	189,733	283	3,007,906	28,000	0 18 7
1950-51 ..	191,587	306	3,057,519	(a) 41,000	1 6 10
Aggregate—					
1912-13 to					
1950-51 ..	4,781,902	111,109	38,811,993	619,455	1 12 0

(a) Estimated.

NOTE.—Means test was abolished from 1st July, 1943.

7. **Claims paid in each State.**—The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State during the years 1938-39 and 1946-47 to 1950-51 :—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	Total.
1939	30,860	20,819	12,880	7,162	5,213	3,940	42	80,916
1947	73,110	50,730	29,002	(b) 17,860	13,750	7,542	(c)	191,994
1948	68,116	46,027	27,920	(b) 15,856	12,553	7,074	(c)	(d) 177,566
1949	67,534	46,309	27,570	(b) 16,381	13,107	6,984	(c)	(d) 177,955
1950	73,566	49,035	28,652	(b) 17,273	13,759	7,408	(c)	(d) 189,733
1951	72,003	50,210	29,155	(b) 17,864	14,986	7,250	(c)	(d) 191,587
Total, 1912-13 to 1950-51 ..	1,875,755	1,243,625	725,142	420,645	315,140	200,219	1,127	4,781,902 (d)

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Included with South Australia. (d) Includes claims paid abroad, 1947-48, 20; 1948-49, 70; 1949-50, 40; 1950-51, 119; total to 30th June, 1951, 249.

8. **Claims Paid at the Various Rates.**—The following table shows the number of claims paid in each State at the several rates of maternity allowance during the year 1950-51. The total for Australia for the year 1949-50 is also shown :—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1950-51.

State.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.						Total Claims Paid.	
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	Twins.			Triplets.				Quad- rup- lets. £31.
				£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.		
N.S. Wales(a) ..	24,682	35,115	11,336	259	431	175	3	..	1	1	72,003
Victoria ..	17,321	24,888	7,359	194	334	106	2	3	2	1	50,210
Queensland ..	9,092	13,845	5,885	84	150	95	3	..	1	..	29,155
Sth. Australia(b)	5,951	9,098	2,616	60	100	39	..	..	..	..	17,864
W. Australia ..	4,735	7,649	2,432	40	88	40	..	2	..	..	14,986
Tasmania ..	2,216	3,401	1,536	14	58	23	..	2	..	..	7,250
Abroad ..	63	50	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	119
Total 1950-51	64,060	94,046	31,168	653	1,161	478	8	7	4	2	191,587
1949-50	66,217	91,061	30,210	613	1,156	452	7	9	7	(c) 1	189,733

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
£32 10s., in Western Australia.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) Quadruplets

§ 4. Child Endowment.

1. **General.**—Any person who is resident in Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of sixteen years, and an approved institution of which children are inmates shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child. There is a twelve months residential requirement in respect of a claimant and a child who were not born in Australia, but this is waived if the claimant and the child are likely to remain permanently in Australia. A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born in Australia. There is no means test.

2. **Child of Alien Father.**—Endowment may be paid in respect of a child of an alien father if the child was born in Australia, or the mother is a British subject and the child is likely to remain permanently in Australia.

3. **Aboriginal Natives.**—Endowment may be paid to aboriginal natives of Australia unless they are nomadic, or unless the child concerned is wholly or mainly dependent on the Commonwealth or a State for his support.

4. **Rate of Payment.**—From 20th June, 1950, the rate of endowment payable has been (a) where the endowee has the custody of one child only—5s. per week; (b) where the endowee has the custody of two or more children—in respect of the elder or eldest child 5s. per week and in respect of each other child 10s. per week; and (c) in the case of an approved institution the rate is 10s. per week for each child inmate. From 1st July, 1941, the date of the inception of the scheme, the rate of endowment was 5s. per week for each child in excess of one in a family, and for each child under sixteen years in an approved institution. The rate was increased to 7s. 6d. per week from 25th June, 1945, and to 10s. per week from 9th November, 1948.

5. **Divided Families.**—There are provisions to meet cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, unemployment, death of a parent or other circumstances. In these cases endowment may be paid to the father, mother or other person.

6. **Australians Temporarily Abroad.**—Endowment may be paid, under certain conditions, to persons ordinarily resident in Australia who are temporarily abroad.

7. **Members of United Kingdom Defence Forces.**—Endowment will be paid for the children of members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian Forces from the time of arrival in Australia.

8. **Summary.**—During the year 1950-51, 510,273 claims were granted, cancellations amounted to 22,375 and the number of endowed family group claims in force at 30th June, 1951 was 1,150,847, an increase of 487,898 or 73.6 per cent. during the year. This

large increase was due mainly to the extension from 20th June, 1950, of endowment to the first or only child under sixteen years of age in a family. The following table shows particulars of the operations during the year ended 30th June, 1951, and earlier years :—

CHILD ENDOWMENT : SUMMARY, 1950-51.

State.	Family Groups.					Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions.
	Claims in force at end of year.	Endowed Children.		Annual Liability at 30th June, 1951.		
		Total.	Average per claim.	Total.	Average Liability per claim.	
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
New South Wales(a)	458,829	930,697	2.03	18,233,345	39.74	16,872,169
Victoria	301,805	605,673	2.01	11,824,033	39.18	10,948,350
Queensland	165,465	360,122	2.18	7,212,127	43.59	6,973,906
South Australia(b) ..	102,711	206,843	2.01	4,042,675	39.36	3,782,174
Western Australia ..	81,598	172,186	2.11	3,416,062	41.86	3,269,549
Tasmania	40,229	89,241	2.22	1,797,289	44.68	1,733,775
Abroad	210	415	1.98	8,060	38.38	4,691
Total—1950-51 ..	1,150,847	2,365,177	2.06	46,533,591	40.43	43,584,614
1949-50	662,949	1,813,925	2.74	38,543,713	58.14	30,337,363
1948-49	620,819	1,083,994	1.75	28,183,844	45.40	24,323,413
1947-48	586,415	1,029,777	1.76	20,080,652	34.24	19,425,518
1946-47	559,730	986,814	1.76	19,242,873	34.38	19,862,933

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

In addition to the children endowed in families, child endowment benefits were paid in respect of children in approved institutions during 1946-47 to 1950-51 as follows : 1946-47, 19,743 ; 1947-48, 20,580 ; 1948-49, 21,305 ; 1949-50, 22,397 ; and in 1950-51, 23,753.

9. **Number of Children.**—The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1950 and 1951, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children classified according to the number of children in the family :—

CHILD ENDOWMENT : NUMBER OF CHILDREN.(a)

Size of Family.	30th June, 1950.		30th June, 1951.	
	Claims in force.	Number of endowed children.	Claims in force.	Number of endowed children.
One child	396	396	451,793	451,793
Two children	372,477	744,954	390,567	781,134
Three	172,281	516,843	184,606	553,818
Four	70,082	280,328	74,519	298,076
Five	28,116	140,580	29,387	146,935
Six	11,361	68,166	11,584	69,504
Seven	4,979	34,853	4,987	34,909
Eight	2,090	16,720	2,199	17,592
Nine	734	6,606	801	7,209
Ten	328	3,280	287	2,870
Eleven	75	825	79	869
Twelve	21	252	29	348
Thirteen	7	91	7	91
Fourteen .. ..	..	..	1	14
Fifteen	1	15	1	15
Sixteen	1	16	..	..
Total	662,949	1,813,925	1,150,847	2,365,177

(a) Under 16 years of age.

§ 5. Widows' Pensions.

1. **General.**—Widows' pensions and the rates in each class, as from 6th November, 1951, have been payable to the following classes of women :—

Class "A"—A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years. Rate £169 per annum.

Class "B"—A widow, not less than 50 years of age, who has no children under 16 years of age in her custody, care and control. Rate £130 per annum.

Class "C"—A widow, under 50 years of age, who has no children under the age of 16 years in her custody, care and control, but is in necessitous circumstances within 26 weeks after the death of her husband. Rate £2 10s. per week for not more than 26 weeks.

Class "D"—A woman whose husband has been serving a term of imprisonment for at least six months, if she has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years or is not less than 50 years of age. Rate £130 per annum.

The term "widow" includes :—a "dependent female" (i.e. a woman, who, for not less than three years immediately prior to the death of a man, was wholly or mainly maintained by him as his wife on a permanent and *bona fide* domestic basis); a deserted wife (i.e. a woman deserted by her husband for not less than six months); a divorcee (i.e. a woman whose marriage has been dissolved and who has not remarried); and a woman whose husband is an inmate of a mental hospital.

The residential qualification is five years' continuous residence in Australia immediately prior to the date of lodgment of the claim. Concessions in respect of absences are the same as for age pensions. (*See* footnote, page 307.)

2. **Persons Disqualified.**—A widow's pension is not payable to :—an alien (except a woman who, prior to marriage, was a British subject); a woman who is in receipt of an age or invalid pension, or a war widow's pension under the Repatriation Act in respect of the death of her husband; a woman who has deprived herself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension; a deserted wife or a divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband; a woman who is not of good character; a woman who is not deserving of a pension; a woman in Class "A" in receipt of income of £247 per annum or more or owning property, apart from her permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £1,250 or a woman in Classes "B" or "D" in receipt of income of £208 per annum or more or owning property, apart from her permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £1,000.

3. **Aboriginal Natives.**—Widows' pensions may be granted to aboriginal natives of Australia under the same conditions as age pensions.

4. **Effect of Income.**—Permissible income is £78 per annum. Any income in excess of this amount is deducted from the pension. "Income" has the same meaning as for age pensions. Any amount in excess of 15s. per week received by a deserted wife or a divorcee from her husband or former husband in respect of the maintenance of a child is taken into account in the claimant's income for pension purposes.

5. **Effect of Property.**—The rate of pension for women in Classes "B" and "D" is reduced by £1 per annum for every complete £10 of that portion of the net value of property which exceeds £100 but does not exceed £450, and by £1 per annum for every complete £7 of the remainder (if any) of the net value of the property up to £1,000. Property disregarded in determining eligibility for pension is the same as for age pensions.

6. **Claimants Receiving War Pension.**—A widow is not permitted to receive, in respect of the death of her husband, both a war widow's pension under the Repatriation Act and a civil widow's pension. Other widows, however, may receive a civil widow's pension in addition to a war pension, but the total amount payable in

respect of the two pensions must not exceed £234 per annum in the case of a Class "A" widow or £195 per annum in the case of a widow coming within Classes "B", "C" or "D". Where the war pension and the widow's pension together exceed the limit applicable, the widow's pension is reduced by the amount of the excess. The widow is permitted to have, in addition, other income to bring her total war pension and widow's pension payments up to the appropriate limit of income plus pension, £247 per annum for a Class "A" widow, £208 for a Class "B" or "D" widow.

7. **Payment of Class "A" Pension for Children Continuing Education.**—The pension payable to a Class "A" widow may be continued after her child attains the age of 16 years if the child continues with full-time education at a school or university and is still dependent on the widow and is not in employment. These conditions apply until the child reaches the age of 18 years.

8. **Summary.**—The number of widows' pensions current at 30th June, 1951, was as follows:—Class "A", 17,717; Class "B", 23,997; Class "C", 120; Class "D", 128; total, 41,962. The amount paid in pensions during 1950-51 was £4,828,086. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State in the year 1950-51 and for Australia for each of the years 1946-47 to 1950-51:—

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1951.(a)

State.	Pensions Current.(b)		Children for whom Pensions Payable.	Average Fort-nightly rate of Pension. (c)	Amount paid in Pensions during 1950-51.	
	Number.	Per 10,000 of Population.			Amount.	Per head of Population.(d)
			No.	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
New South Wales (e)	16,975	51	7,651	4 10 9	1,971,798	12 0
Victoria	10,631	47	3,817	4 9 9	1,195,631	10 8
Queensland	6,799	56	3,028	4 12 10	793,721	13 4
South Australia(f) ..	3,402	46	1,344	4 10 5	389,414	10 9
Western Australia ..	2,789	48	1,198	4 11 2	316,165	11 1
Tasmania	1,366	47	679	4 11 6	161,357	11 3
Total 1950-51 ..	41,962	50	17,717	4 10 10	4,828,086	11 7
1949-50 ..	42,894	52	17,760	3 19 3	4,420,566	11 0
1948-49 ..	43,251	55	17,891	3 19 8	4,388,468	11 3
1947-48 ..	43,025	56	17,732	3 8 11	3,904,086	10 3
1946-47 ..	42,742	56	16,702	2 19 1	3,366,288	8 11

(a) The Commonwealth Government commenced to pay widows' pensions from 1st July, 1942. (b) Excludes nine (1950-51), fourteen (1949-50), eleven (1948-49), six (1947-48), thirteen (1946-47), pensions in respect of pensioners in Benevolent Asylums. (c) Payments were four-weekly up to the 24th June, 1947 pay. (d) Based on mean population for the financial year. (e) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (f) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 6. Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

1. **General.**—From 1st July, 1945, men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age, have been eligible to apply for an unemployment benefit or a sickness benefit. There is a twelve month's residential requirement but this is waived if the claimant is likely to remain permanently in Australia. A person in receipt of an age, invalid or widows' pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the Repatriation Act is ineligible to receive a benefit.

2. **Unemployment Benefit.**—To qualify for an unemployment benefit a person must establish that he is unemployed and that his unemployment is not due to his being a direct participant in a strike ; that he is capable and willing to undertake suitable work ; and that he has taken reasonable steps to obtain such work.

3. **Sickness Benefit.**—To qualify for a sickness benefit a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work by reason of sickness or accident and that he has thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

4. **Married Women.**—A married woman is not qualified to receive a sickness benefit if it is reasonably possible for her husband to maintain her. Where her husband is able to maintain her only partially, a benefit may be paid at such rate as is considered reasonable in the circumstances.

5. **Aboriginal Natives.**—A benefit may be paid only to those aboriginal natives of Australia who are considered suitable, by reason of character, standard of intelligence and social development.

6. **Maximum Rates of Benefits and Income.**—The maximum weekly rates of benefit and permissible income are as follows :—

MAXIMUM RATES OF BENEFITS AND INCOME.(a)

(s. d.)

Age and Conjugal Condition.	Maximum Weekly Benefit.				Permissible Income.
	Claimant.	Dependent Spouse.	Child.	Total.	
Unmarried—					
16 years and under 17 years	15 0	..	..	15 0	5 0
17 " " " 18 "	15 0	..	..	15 0	10 0
18 " " " 21 "	20 0	..	..	20 0	15 0
21 years and over ..	25 0	..	..	25 0	20 0
Married	25 0	20 0	5 0	50 0	20 0

(a) See footnote, page 307.

Where an unmarried claimant has the custody, care and control of a child under the age of sixteen years, the total income may be increased by 5s. per week.

Additional benefit of up to 20s. per week may be paid in respect of a claimant's housekeeper where no such benefit is payable in respect of his wife, provided there are one or more children under 16 years of age in the house and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant but is not employed by him.

7 **Means Test.**—Any income in excess of the permissible income shown in the previous table is deducted from the rate of benefit. For unemployment benefit purposes, the income of the claimant and his spouse are taken into account, but where the claimant and his spouse are permanently separated any income received by the spouse may be disregarded. "Income" does not include child endowment, or other payments for or

in respect of children, benefits under the Commonwealth Hospital Benefits and Pharmaceutical Benefits, or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses actually paid. For sickness benefit purposes, there is disregarded £1 per week of any payment received from an approved friendly society or other similar approved body in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable.

Where a person qualified for sickness benefit receives or is entitled to receive (in respect of the same period and the same incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable) any payment by way of compensation (including workers' compensation), damages, or otherwise under any law (except payments for which he has contributed), the amount of the compensation, etc., is not taken into account as income but is deducted from the rate of sickness benefit otherwise payable.

8. *Waiting Period.*—There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable.

9. *Special Benefit.*—A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension or a service pension, if, by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, he is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants.

10. *Rehabilitation.*—Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible for participation in the Commonwealth rehabilitation scheme under the same conditions as invalid pensioners. The grant or continuance of an unemployment or sickness benefit may be refused if the claimant or beneficiary, on being required, fails to undergo a medical examination or to receive treatment or undertake training or to do any suitable work.

During the year 1950–51 the number of persons examined was 9,226, of whom 1,152 were accepted for treatment and 842 were placed in employment.

11. *Statistics, 1949–50 and 1950–51.*—(i) *Persons on Benefit.* At 30th June, 1951, 8,569 persons were paid benefits, comprising 604 unemployment, 7,044 sickness and 921 special benefits.

PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 30th JUNE, 1951.

State.	Unemployment.		Sickness.		Special.(a)		Total.(a)		
	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Per- sons.
New South Wales ^b	181	65	2,158	710	104	244	2,443	1,019	3,462
Victoria ..	21	11	1,252	481	81	186	1,354	678	2,032
Queensland ..	213	50	710	212	27	104	950	366	1,316
South Australia ^(c)	3	..	534	180	28	33	565	213	778
Western Australia	30	20	417	112	11	42	458	174	632
Tasmania ..	9	1	228	50	6	55	243	100	349
Total ..	457	147	5,299	1,745	257	664	6,013	2,556	8,569

(a) Excludes migrants receiving benefits. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) *Number of Persons admitted in each State.* The following table shows the number of persons in each State admitted to benefit during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 :—

PERSONS ADMITTED TO BENEFIT.

State.	Unemployment.		Sickness.		Special.(a)		Total.(a)		
	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Per- sons.
1949-50.									
New South Wales ^b	103,599	23,901	18,263	6,030	2,016	435	123,878	30,366	154,244
Victoria ..	854	183	11,217	3,903	449	323	12,520	4,409	16,929
Queensland ..	14,818	5,023	7,837	2,013	459	191	23,114	7,227	30,341
South Australia(c)	5,534	978	5,030	1,279	355	80	10,919	2,337	13,256
Western Australia	5,308	752	4,328	1,102	166	60	9,802	1,914	11,716
Tasmania ..	135	16	2,331	509	84	42	2,550	567	3,117
Total ..	130,248	30,853	49,006	14,836	3,529	1,131	182,783	46,820	229,603
1950-51.									
New South Wales ^b	5,605	601	17,722	5,805	680	316	24,007	6,722	30,729
Victoria ..	1,004	141	10,974	3,741	525	354	12,503	4,236	16,739
Queensland ..	3,235	447	7,873	1,811	308	98	11,416	2,356	13,772
South Australia(c)	75	9	4,608	1,060	211	43	4,894	1,112	6,006
Western Australia	586	118	4,334	1,004	115	34	5,035	1,156	6,191
Tasmania ..	71	12	2,102	376	60	41	2,233	429	2,662
Total ..	10,576	1,328	47,613	13,797	1,899	886	60,088	16,011	76,099

(a) Excludes benefits granted to migrants.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) *Benefits Paid.* The following table shows the benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during each of the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 :—

BENEFITS PAID.

(£.)

State.	Unemployment.		Sickness.		Special.(a)		Total.(a)	
	1949-50.	1950-51.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1949-50.	1950-51.
New South Wales(b)	1,064,698	25,324	307,315	296,418	176,698	50,303	1,548,711	372,045
Victoria ..	6,666	7,731	217,783	197,719	141,277	98,529	365,726	303,979
Queensland ..	141,446	22,485	111,840	96,540	10,707	9,232	263,993	128,257
South Australia(c)	33,089	350	83,825	70,770	15,005	5,558	131,919	76,678
Western Australia	18,163	5,360	58,323	53,911	76,402	61,507	152,888	120,778
Tasmania ..	2,010	1,194	36,928	30,358	4,249	3,924	43,187	35,476
Total ..	1,266,072	62,444	816,014	745,716	424,338	229,053	2,506,424	1,037,213

(a) Includes amounts paid in respect of migrants.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

§ 7. Reciprocity with New Zealand.

1. **Original Agreement.**—A reciprocal agreement between Australia and New Zealand in respect of invalid and age pensions and the corresponding benefits in New Zealand came into operation from 1st September, 1943 under the provisions of the Invalid and Old-age Pensions (Reciprocity with New Zealand) Act 1943.

2. **Existing Agreement.**—A new agreement between the two countries was signed on 15th April, 1949, and was given effect from 1st July, 1949 by the Social Services (Reciprocity with New Zealand) Regulations. The Invalid and Old-age Pensions (Reciprocity with New Zealand) Act 1943 was repealed from the latter date by the Social Services Consolidation Act 1949.

The new agreement covers age, invalid and widows' pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits in Australia and the corresponding benefits in New Zealand. It provides a new basis of entitlement for reciprocal benefits which is, broadly speaking, that citizens of one country who take up permanent residence in the other country shall be entitled to the social service benefits of the new country on the same basis as citizens of that country. For this purpose residence in New Zealand is regarded as residence in Australia (and *vice versa*); a person born in New Zealand is regarded as a person born in Australia (and *vice versa*); and permanent incapacity or blindness which occurred in New Zealand is treated as if it had occurred in Australia (and *vice versa*).

Persons going from one country to the other for temporary residence continue to receive any benefits which they have been receiving in their own country. The home country continues to provide the benefits during these temporary periods, but the payments are made, on an agency basis, by the country in which the person is temporarily resident.

B. OTHER SERVICES.

§ 1. Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.

1. **General.**—The public provisions for the care of indigent old people have been a feature of the social development of recent years in most countries. Numerous establishments exist in Australia for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc.; while in many cases relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially difficult in the case of benevolent institutions, because the services provided by these institutions are not always identical.

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

3. Revenue and Expenditure.—Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1949-50 are given in the following table:—

BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1949-50.

(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic. (b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.					
Revenue—												
Government Aid	250,256	347,149	179,594	33,979	29,412	52,854	893,244					
Municipal Aid ..	..	1,095	..	..	..	..	1,095
Public Subscriptions, Legacies	..	41,347	20,343	24	729	..	62,443					
Fees (c) ..	} 202,562	{ 70,670	96,820	23,815	50,973	35,973	} 522,377					
Other ..								10,774	27,921	2,048	65	756
Total 1949-50	452,818	471,035	324,678	59,866	81,179	89,583	1,479,159					
1948-49	d 383,543	e 261,016	250,880	60,081	78,432	82,142	1,116,094					
Expenditure—												
Salaries and Wages ..	} 452,818	{ 220,065	124,611	33,264	44,630	49,181	} 1,488,349					
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..								15,982	11,898	6,201	3,875	1,197
All Other (f) ..								232,794	199,553	20,401	32,674	39,205
Total 1949-50	452,818	468,841	336,062	59,866	81,179	89,583	1,488,349					
1948-49	d 383,543	e 272,444	264,100	60,081	78,432	82,142	1,140,742					

(a) These figures relate to the three State hospitals and homes only. (b) Year ended 31st March, 1950. (c) Includes Commonwealth Hospital Benefits and Age and Invalid Pension receipts. (d) Year 1948. (e) Nine months ended 31st March, 1949. (f) Includes £95,431 in Victoria, £32,937 in Queensland, £1,567 in South Australia and £1,663 in Western Australia, covering such items as purchases of land, cost of new buildings and additions to buildings.

§ 2. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.

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

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

3. *Transactions of State Departments.*—The following table summarizes the transactions of State Departments during 1949-50 in connexion with children under their control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures include

uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a Government authority, as well as poor children whose parents obtain assistance from the Government without giving up the legal right of custody :—

CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY : SUMMARY, 1949-50.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b)	670	246	1,093	293	30	53	5,154
In licensed or approved institutions	718	1,382						5	444	220
Boarded out—							
With own mothers ..	6,591	2,403	3,216	46	15	..	12,271
With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	1,393	465	341	1,503	276	141	4,119
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	9,372	4,496	4,650	1,847	765	414	21,544
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions	1,264	..	..	43	690	..	1,997
Boarded out	243	..	..	1,586	357	..	2,186
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts)	2,022	1,149	122	137	291	..	3,721
In service or apprenticed	96	209	261	31	157	..	754
Adopted or otherwise placed	397	129	18	646	68	..	1,258
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State	4,022	1,487	401	2,443	1,563	..	9,916
Total children under State control or supervision ..	13,394	5,983	5,051	4,290	2,328	414	31,460
<i>Gross cost of children's relief</i>	£ 646,775	£ 231,330	£ 197,740	£ 143,735	£ 43,477	£ 16,885	£ 1,279,942
<i>Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..</i>	51,818	23,809	15,442	24,181	10,481	2,129	127,860
<i>Net cost to State,</i>							
1949-50	594,957	207,521	182,298	119,554	32,996	14,756	1,152,082
1948-49	563,348	214,956	178,073	105,892	27,910	14,641	1,104,820

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1949.

(b) Includes inmates of hospitals.

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

§ 3. Protection of Aborigines.

For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come near the stations. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1949-50 was as follows (figures in brackets are for year 1948-49):—New South Wales, £97,146 (£80,478); Victoria, £8,413 (£7,626); Queensland, £293,099 (£233,114); South Australia, £45,362 (£26,988); Western Australia, £140,761 (£96,261); Northern Territory, £74,334 (£53,420); Australian Capital Territory, £1,292 (£1,158; total for Australia, £640,412 (£499,045).

§ 4. Royal Life Saving Society.

In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have also been established in the larger provincial districts. In 1934 an Australian Federal Council of this Society was formed with head-quarters at Melbourne, and each State centre, or branch, as it is now called, is controlled by the new organization. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, warning provisions, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves and other suitable places. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the number for the individual States for 1948-49 being:—New South Wales, 9,272; Victoria, 4,701; Queensland, 2,098; South Australia, 751; Western Australia, 357; Tasmania, 1,325.

§ 5. Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has as its main object the granting of awards to all who with bravery, skill and perseverance promptly risk their own lives in saving or attempting to save those of their fellow creatures. The classes of awards are (a) Gold Medal, (b) Silver Medal, (c) Bronze Medal, (d) Certificate of Merit, and the Clark Medal for the outstanding case of the year. About 75 awards are made annually.

§ 6. Other Charitable Institutions.

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