

CHAPTER 5

REPATRIATION

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act* 1920–1973, consists of three full-time members. It is responsible for the administration of the Repatriation Act and associated legislation, all matters of policy, and the general administration and overall supervision of the Repatriation Department. The Chairman of the Commission is also the Permanent Head of the Repatriation Department, which provides the administrative machinery through which the Commission operates. The central office is in Canberra and there is a branch office, under the control of a Deputy Commissioner, in each State.

The principal functions of the Department are: the payment of war and service pensions and allowances to eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants; the provision of medical treatment for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their service; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by service; the provision of medical treatment for widows and dependants of deceased ex-servicemen whose deaths are service-related; and a wide range of other benefits for eligible persons.

Benefits are provided in respect of service, not only in the 1914–18 and 1939–45 Wars, but also in the South African War 1899–1902, the Korea and Malaya operations, with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and the Special Overseas Forces serving in prescribed areas, and in the Regular Forces in certain circumstances.

For information on war service land settlement *see* Chapter 22, Rural Industry; for statistics relating to defence service homes *see* Chapter 9, Housing and Building.

For detailed information about repatriation pensions, allowances, benefits and services, reference should be made to the annual reports of the Repatriation Commission.

REPATRIATION: TOTAL EXPENDITURE^(a) (\$'000)

Class	1968–69	1969–70	1970–71	1971–72	1972–73
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	221,678	228,309	240,539	266,107	303,183
Medical treatment	62,743	68,395	74,627	87,328	97,297
Administration	13,196	14,972	16,700	18,913	20,791
Works, rent and maintenance	4,929	5,423	7,981	5,301	6,870
Total expenditure	302,546	317,098	339,847	377,649	428,141

^(a) Includes expenditure by Departments other than Repatriation as follows: 1968–69, \$4,841,789; 1969–70, \$5,298,982; 1970–71, \$5,852,357; 1971–72, \$4,982,764; 1972–73, \$6,645,558.

War pensions

The first provision for the payment of war pensions to ex-servicemen and their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the *War Pensions Act* 1914. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* 1920 (amended from 31 December 1950 to the Repatriation Act). Amendments to the Act in 1943 considerably widened the eligibility provisions, to the benefit mainly of members of the Citizen Military Forces who had not served outside Australia during the 1939–45 War.

For a brief description of eligibility for war pensions; the conditions for payment of the various rates and allowances; and of operation of the Appeals Tribunals, *see* pages 91–93 of Year Book 55, Chapter 5, Repatriation.

Pensions and allowances

War pensions and associated allowances are not subject to a means test, except in the case of dependants other than wives, widows, widowed mothers and children. Pensions and allowances payable and the main weekly rates from 28 March 1974 are as follows.

Pensions for service-related incapacity—Special rate (totally and permanently incapacitated (T. & P.I.) or blinded), \$60.10; an equivalent rate is payable for temporary total incapacity or to an ex-serviceman pensioned for pulmonary tuberculosis who is, as a result, unfit for employment; *Intermediate Rate*. (Capable of part-time work only), \$41.05; ex-servicemen pensioned for pulmonary tuberculosis and able only to work part-time receive the same rate; *General Rate* (capable of full-time employment), 100 per cent basic rate, \$22. *Dependants—*Pensions are also payable to the dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen: Wife, \$4.05; eligible children, \$1.38; (Maximum rates).

Pensions in respect of death—War and defence widows (where death was related to war or defence service or, at the date of death, the ex-serviceman was receiving a war pension at the special rate, or its equivalent in respect of pulmonary tuberculosis, or as a double amputee) \$26.00; eligible widows may also receive a domestic allowance, \$9.50; *children* (under 16 years of age) or *student children* over 16 years of age undergoing full-time education, \$9.25; double orphans (both parents deceased), \$18.50.

*Allowances—*various allowances are provided to supplement war pensions and these vary according to the type and severity of disablement and the special needs of the pensioner. The main allowances and maximum weekly rates payable are: *Attendants allowance* (for the severely disabled), maximum \$22.00; *Clothing allowances* (where clothing is subject to damage from surgical aids, etc.), from 55 cents to \$1.05; *Domestic allowance* (payable to eligible war and defence widows), \$9.50. Other allowances payable include: *Sustenance allowance*; *Fares, subsistence and attendance allowance*; *Recreation transport allowance*; *Funeral benefits, etc.*

Summary of war pensions

The following tables provide a summary of war pensions (excluding miscellaneous war pensions) for the 1914–18 War, the 1939–45 War (including war pensions payable under the *Interim Forces Benefits Act 1947–1966*), the Korea and Malaya operations, the Far East Strategic Reserve, and the Special Overseas Service. Statistics relating to miscellaneous war pensions are shown later in this section.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1972-73

		1914–18 War	1939–45 War(a)	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
New claims granted	No.	325	14,532	556	143	2,293	17,849
Restorations	No.	20	2,106	97	5	26	2,254
Claims disallowed(b)	No.	306	2,855	92	33	567	3,853
Pensions cancelled (gross)	No.	99	14,577	599	68	276	15,619
Deaths of pensioners	No.	5,063	6,534	45	6	26	11,674
Pensions in force at 30 June 1973	No.	68,103	449,306	11,821	2,081	14,357	545,668
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1973	\$'000	59,694	163,619	2,039	274	1,726	227,351
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1972–73	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	224,489

(a) Includes interim forces. (b) Number of ex-servicemen who had their claims for all their disabilities disallowed.

NOTE. Increases in the number of new claims granted and restorations during 1972–73 are mainly due to an amendment to the legislation which provided for pensions for student children over 16 years of age. At 30 June 1973 there were 10,124 student children over 16 years of age receiving war pensions.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73(a)
New claims granted	17,570	17,129	16,437	13,041	17,849
Restorations	429	317	569	240	2,254
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>17,999</i>	<i>17,446</i>	<i>17,006</i>	<i>13,281</i>	<i>20,103</i>
Pensions cancelled (gross)	22,285	21,222	20,158	17,826	15,619
Deaths of pensioners	11,247	11,785	11,990	12,124	11,674
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>33,532</i>	<i>33,007</i>	<i>32,148</i>	<i>29,950</i>	<i>27,293</i>

(a) See NOTE to table on page 112.

Classes of war pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the total number of new claims granted, pensions in force, and class of pension for 1972-73.

WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1972-73(a)

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(b)	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
Ex-servicemen	120	2,386	74	24	492	3,096
Wives and widows of ex-servicemen	182	2,943	93	29	593	3,840
Children	22	9,121	384	90	1,202	10,819
Other dependants	1	82	5	..	6	94
Total	325	14,532	556	143	2,293	17,849

(a) See NOTE to table page 112. (b) Includes interim forces.

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1973

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total(b)
Ex-servicemen	20,131	181,910	3,437	579	5,299	211,356
Wives	25,440	160,621	2,762	478	3,638	192,939
Children	225	70,933	5,229	946	4,990	82,323
War widows	22,110	27,869	166	32	122	50,299
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	26	2,950	117	36	234	3,363
Orphans	8	127	6	..	1	142
Parents	25	4,258	95	9	71	4,459
Others	138	638	9	1	1	787
Total	68,103	449,306	11,821	2,081	14,357	545,668

(a) Includes interim forces. (b) Includes 10,124 student children over 16 years of age.

**WAR PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED EX-SERVICEMEN IN FORCE: BY CLASS OF PENSION
AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1973**

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea and Malaya operations</i>	<i>Far East Strategic Reserve</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Total</i>
Special rate (T. & P.I.) or equivalent	5,912	14,348	120	7	37	20,424
Intermediate rate	149	1,657	21	..	..	1,827
General rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability(b)	14,070	165,905	3,296	572	5,262	189,105
Total	20,131	181,910	3,437	579	5,299	211,356

(a) Includes interim forces. (b) Excludes 79 ex-servicemen who also receive benefits under items 1-6 of the Fifth Schedule and are included above under Special rate (T. & P.I.) or equivalent.

Number of war pensions and annual liability, States, etc.

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability at 30 June 1973, according to place of payment.

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY
30 JUNE 1973**

<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1973(a)</i>				<i>Annual pension liability at 30 June(b) (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Incapacitated ex-servicemen</i>	<i>Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen</i>	<i>Total</i>	
New South Wales(c)	76,141	96,442	21,590	194,173	82,816
Victoria	55,479	73,199	16,560	145,238	61,554
Queensland	33,415	45,301	8,119	86,835	36,874
South Australia(d)	19,423	25,345	5,048	49,816	18,645
Western Australia	17,452	22,471	4,141	44,064	15,748
Tasmania	8,498	11,860	2,040	22,398	9,930
Overseas	948	1,425	771	3,144	1,786
Total	211,356	276,043	58,269	545,668	227,351

(a) Includes interim forces 1939-45 War. (b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

Summary of war pensions, 1968-69 to 1972-73

The following table shows the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1969 to 1973.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pensions granted</i>	<i>Number of war pensions in force at 30 June(a)—</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Annual pension liability at 30 June(c) (\$'000)</i>
		<i>Claims disallowed (b)</i>	<i>Incapacitated ex-servicemen</i>	<i>Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen</i>		
1968-69	17,570	4,950	221,343	319,899	59,071	600,313	171,818
1969-70	17,129	5,333	219,841	305,403	59,432	584,676	178,730
1970-71	16,437	5,110	218,355	291,828	59,356	569,539	185,974
1971-72	13,041	4,957	215,483	278,392	58,949	552,824	196,897
1972-73	17,849	3,853	211,356	276,043	58,269	545,668	227,351

(a) Includes interim forces 1939-45 War. (b) The number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities disallowed. (c) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

The following table shows, for the years 1968-69 to 1972-73, the amounts paid in pensions and the places where they were paid.

WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID(a)
(\$'000)

Place of payment	1968-69(b)	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
New South Wales(c)	64,981	65,469	68,992	76,791	81,599
Victoria	51,566	51,214	52,546	57,357	60,739
Queensland	28,543	29,055	30,813	34,183	36,821
South Australia(d)	15,326	15,151	15,722	17,270	18,405
Western Australia	13,038	12,786	13,114	14,384	15,428
Tasmania	7,617	7,831	8,226	9,089	9,851
Overseas	1,414	1,580	1,595	1,573	1,646
Total	182,485	183,086	191,008	210,647	224,489

(a) Includes domestic allowances paid to widows. (b) Includes five 12-weekly payments. (c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

Miscellaneous war pensions

The Commission is also responsible for the payment of pensions and allowances to beneficiaries under the *Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940-1973* and Cabinet decisions granting eligibility to persons who were attached to the armed forces during war-time.

The following table shows the number and class of pensions and the annual liability at 30 June 1973, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1968-69 to 1972-73 and the place of payment.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1973

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1973				Annual pension liability at 30 June(b) (\$'000)
	Members(a)	Dependants of members	Dependants of deceased members	Total	
Act of grace	121	141	54	316	174
Seamen's war pension	80	82	60	222	120
New Guinea civilians	2	..	63	65	99
Total	203	223	177	603	393

(a) 'Member' in this context is a person in respect of whose war-time experience a pension is paid. (b) Includes domestic allowances payable to widows.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS(a):
(\$'000)

Place of payment	1968-69(b)	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
New South Wales(c)	174	176	179	214	216
Victoria	87	84	90	107	124
Queensland	46	47	50	62	72
South Australia(d)	30	31	32	36	46
Western Australia	23	25	26	29	34
Tasmania	4	4	4	5	5
Overseas	1	1	1	1	1
Total	365	368	382	454	498

(a) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (b) Includes five 12-weekly payments. (c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

Service pensions

The *Repatriation Act* 1920-1973 provides for a service pension to be paid (subject to a means test on income and property, where the person is neither blind nor at least 75 years of age), to the following persons:

- ex-servicemen who served in a theatre of war (or in a designated *Operational* or *Special Overseas Service* area) and have attained the age of sixty years or are permanently unemployable;
 - ex-servicemen who suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis, irrespective of the area of their service; and
 - ex-servicewomen who suffer from tuberculosis, or who served in a theatre of war, or served abroad or embarked for service abroad and have attained the age of fifty-five years, or are permanently unemployable.
- veterans of the South African War 1899-1902 who were members of a naval or military force or contingent raised in Australia for active service in that war.

Rates of pension

Maximum service pension rates and allowances are the same as those paid to Age and Invalid pensioners under the Social Services Act. The means test provisions relating to payments are similar.

For information on conditions relating to the various rates and allowances and the operation of the means test, see Chapter 13, Welfare Services.

From 28 March 1974, the maximum weekly rates are as follows:

Standard Rate, \$26.00, *Married Rate*, \$22.75; *Guardian's Allowance*, \$4 (\$6 if caring for a child under 6 years or an invalid child requiring full-time care); *Supplementary assistance*, \$4 (or \$2 payable to each of a married couple); *Additional pension for eligible children*, \$5 for each child.

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

SERVICE PENSIONS, SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1972-73

	<i>South African War</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War</i>	<i>Korea-Malaya operations</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Miscellaneous (a)</i>	<i>Total</i>
New claims granted . . . . .	..	2,256	22,503	95	17	17	24,888
Restorations . . . . .	..	353	1,022	5	..	4	1,384
Cancellations (gross) . . . . .	..	472	2,045	17	3	1	2,538
Deaths	16	2,946	2,266	5	2	3	5,238
Pensions in force at 30 June 1973	54	30,813	64,862	310	15	71	96,125
Annual liability at 30 June 1973							
\$'000	47	27,266	54,441	192	7	58	82,011
Amount paid in pensions during 1972-73 \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	72,316

(a) Act of grace pensions.

NOTE. Discrepancies between the figures shown for 1972-73 and those for previous years result from a complete check of records.

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

	<i>1968-69</i>	<i>1969-70(a)</i>	<i>1970-71</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73(a)</i>
New claims granted	7,479	13,259	10,321	10,349	24,888
Restorations	780	1,642	680	794	1,384
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>8,259</i>	<i>14,901</i>	<i>11,001</i>	<i>11,143</i>	<i>26,272</i>
Cancellations (gross)	5,009	2,858	3,378	5,098	2,538
Deaths	4,601	4,781	5,276	5,135	5,238
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>9,610</i>	<i>7,639</i>	<i>8,654</i>	<i>10,233</i>	<i>7,776</i>

(a) The increased number of new claims granted and restorations in 1969-70 and 1972-73 were partly due to easing of the means test in those years and to an ageing population of ex-service personnel.

Class of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1972-73.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA 1972-73

Class	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscellaneous	Total
Ex-servicemen	1,360	12,434	49	7	9	13,859
Wives and widows of ex-servicemen	888	9,268	29	4	8	10,197
Children	8	801	17	6	..	832
Total	2,256	22,503	95	17	17	24,888

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, 30 JUNE 1973

State	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscellaneous	Total
New South Wales(a)	14	9,770	19,944	98	9	15	29,850
Victoria	16	8,588	15,563	59	..	28	24,254
Queensland	11	4,909	13,408	76	5	7	18,416
South Australia(b)	5	3,613	6,179	31	1	13	9,842
Western Australia	4	2,780	6,770	39	..	6	9,599
Tasmania	4	1,153	2,998	7	..	2	4,164
Australia	54	30,813	64,862	310	15	71	96,125

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

Number, by class, of service pensions and amount paid

The following tables show the number of each class of service pension in force, the annual liability and the amounts paid for the years 1968-69 to 1972-73.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL LIABILITY AUSTRALIA

Year	Number of service pensions at 30 June payable to—							Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)	
	Ex-servicemen who are—			Dependants(a) of ex-servicemen where the ex-serviceman is—					
	Aged ex-servicemen	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	An aged ex-serviceman	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Miscellaneous		
1968-69	35,404	14,797	1,060	537	14,373	975	22	67,168	33,273
1969-70	37,792	17,362	1,154	821	16,237	1,023	31	74,420	40,929
1970-71	38,666	18,122	1,201	1,017	16,729	1,030	43	76,808	43,334
1971-72	39,657	17,668	1,203	1,186	16,922	1,028	49	77,713	51,432
1972-73	47,430	19,121	1,333	9,488	17,617	1,065	71	96,125	82,011

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners.

NOTE. See footnote (a) last table previous page.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID
(**\$'000**)

<i>Place of payment</i>	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
New South Wales(a)	11,358	12,806	13,963	15,633	23,011
Victoria	8,070	9,767	10,696	12,075	18,033
Queensland	5,799	7,184	8,042	9,150	13,567
South Australia(b)	3,710	4,253	4,651	5,185	7,467
Western Australia	4,071	4,491	4,769	5,298	7,394
Tasmania	1,093	1,404	1,604	1,841	2,827
Overseas	7	8	7	12	17
Australia	34,108	39,912	43,732	49,194	72,316

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

Medical treatment for ex-servicemen and dependants of ex-servicemen

Medical treatment is provided for all disabilities which have been accepted as being service-related. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is provided for disabilities not due to war service for: ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen receiving war pensions at or exceeding the maximum general (100 per cent) rate; ex-servicemen who have contracted pulmonary tuberculosis; nurses who served in the 1914-18 war; widows and certain dependants of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service and of deceased T. & P.I. pensioners; and certain service pensioners, including service pensioners of the South African War 1899-1902. Ex-servicemen who have contracted pulmonary tuberculosis may receive treatment for that condition. During 1972-73 nursing-home-care benefits were extended to T. & P.I. and Intermediate Rate war pensioners suffering from chronic non-war related disabilities and to war widows, widowed mothers and First World War nurses.

In-patient treatment for eligible patients is provided at the six Repatriation General Hospitals (one in each State) and seven auxiliary hospitals and sanatoria as follows: *New South Wales*—Lady Davidson Hospital; *Victoria*—Macleod Hospital and Anzac Hostel; *Queensland*—Kenmore Hospital and Rosemount Hospital; *South Australia*—Birrlee Hospital; and *Western Australia*—The Edward Millen Hospital. The Anzac Hostel specialises in the care and treatment of long-term patients.

The total number of available beds for patients in wards or parts of wards, open for use, in all these institutions at 30 June 1973 was 3,681, and expenditure during 1972-73 amounted to \$45,650,307. In addition, expenditure of \$51,646,866 was incurred during 1972-73 on medical services outside these institutions.

Repatriation hospitals and institutions

Details of full-time staff in Repatriation general hospitals and other Repatriation institutions are given in the following table.

REPATRIATION HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: FULL-TIME STAFF
30 JUNE 1973

<i>Type of institution</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
General hospitals—							
Medical staff(a)	142	109	48	32	28	12	371
Nursing staff	719	486	385	217	221	60	2,088
Other staff	1,135	805	485	381	436	120	3,362
<i>Total, general hospitals</i>	<i>1,996</i>	<i>1,400</i>	<i>918</i>	<i>630</i>	<i>685</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>5,821</i>
Other in-patient institutions(b)	248	135	215	..	50	..	648
Out-patient clinics(b)	166	73	22	36	28	..	325
Limb and appliance centres(b)	78	69	29	18	14	13	221
Grand total	2,488	1,677	1,184	684	777	205	7,015

(a) Medical Officers only, excludes psychologists, speech therapists, etc. (b) Total staff.

The following table gives details of in-patients treated at Repatriation general hospitals and other Repatriation institutions in each State. The figures shown refer to treatment episodes, e.g. a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: IN-PATIENTS
TREATED, 1972-73**

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.(a)	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year	934	548	416	239	281	82	2,500
Admissions and re-admissions during year	17,066	10,400	8,474	5,012	5,978	1,624	48,554
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>18,000</i>	<i>10,948</i>	<i>8,890</i>	<i>5,251</i>	<i>6,259</i>	<i>1,706</i>	<i>51,054</i>
Discharges	16,243	9,538	8,116	4,736	5,679	1,547	45,859
Deaths	878	847	400	293	287	69	2,774
In-patients at end of year	879	563	374	222	293	90	2,421
Average daily beds occupied	868	536	381	235	273	81	2,373
OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS							
In-patients at beginning of year	222	111	123	29	33	..	518
Admissions and re-admissions during year	2,152	980	978	90	320	..	4,520
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>2,374</i>	<i>1,091</i>	<i>1,101</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>5,038</i>
Discharges	2,096	919	895	113	305	..	4,328
Deaths	83	57	64	6	8	..	218
In-patients at end of year	195	115	143	..	40	..	493
Average daily beds occupied	198	100	113	16	33	..	461

(a) Birlee Auxiliary Hospital closed 10 February 1973.

In addition to the Repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at Repatriation expense. During 1972-73, 19,485 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 3,469 in nursing homes.

Repatriation psychiatric patients requiring custodial care are, by agreement with the State Governments, accommodated at the expense of the Repatriation Department in separate wings of psychiatric hospitals administered by the State authorities. Excluding 121 on trial leave, there were 685 Repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1973.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout Australia at Repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1972-73, 617,048 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,737,634. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in Australia at 30 June 1973 was 6,558.

Artificial limb and appliance services

In each State the Repatriation Department maintains a limb and appliance centre, catering for patients requiring artificial limbs, surgical aids and appliances. The centres fit eligible Repatriation patients and those from other Australian Government departments and instrumentalities, and, when possible, patients from State Government and philanthropic organisations, and private persons who cannot be fitted satisfactorily elsewhere.

Details of production at all centres during 1972-73 are as follows: arms, 185; legs, 1,619; surgical footwear, 8,130; adapted footwear, 1,650; other surgical appliances, 2,213; and repairs, 25,638.

General Repatriation benefits and miscellaneous

Other Repatriation Department activities

In addition to the payment of pensions and the provision of medical treatment, the Department also provides various benefits and allowances designed to meet the needs of special classes of ex-servicemen and their dependants.

These include educational and vocational training schemes, namely the *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme* (full details of which appear later in this section), the *Disabled Members' Training Scheme*, the *War Widows' and Defence Widows' Training Scheme*, the *National Service Vocational Training Scheme* and the *Former Regular Servicemen Vocational Training Scheme*.

In addition, gift cars and an annual allowance for their upkeep are provided for ex-servicemen who, as a result of service, have suffered the amputation of both legs above the knees or amputation of one leg above the knee plus any two other amputations (above the ankle or at or above the wrist) or complete paraplegia resulting in the total loss of the use of both legs. A grant of up to \$100 may be made towards the funeral expenses of eligible ex-servicemen and certain of their dependants. Payment of up to \$10 may be made to provide such necessities as meals, sleeping accommodation, etc., for ex-servicemen in need of immediate relief. Also certain concessions in telephone rental charges are provided for some classes of ex-servicemen and their dependants, including war and service blinded ex-servicemen, war and defence widows and certain service and special rate war pensioners. Ex-servicemen who have been blinded as a result of service may be issued with talking book machines. The Australian Red Cross Society supplies 'book' records or cassettes for these machines, free of charge, thus enabling the blinded to enjoy a wide range of literature.

Expenditure in 1972-73 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$5,880,000, comprising *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme*, \$3,573,000; recreation transport allowance, \$725,000; and other benefits \$1,582,000.

Trust (and other) funds administered by the Repatriation Department held \$13,355,929 in securities (face value) and \$772,678 in cash, a total of \$14,128,607 at 30 June 1973.

Reciprocal arrangements with the United Kingdom, New Zealand and other countries provide for the payment of pensions, etc., to eligible Australian ex-servicemen living overseas and to eligible ex-servicemen from overseas who are living in Australia.

Soldiers' Children Education Scheme

The *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme* was established in 1921 and operates with the assistance of the voluntary Education Boards in each State. These Boards consist of representatives of government and non-government education authorities and of ex-service and other organisations which have a general interest in the welfare of the children of ex-servicemen. The objects of the Scheme are to assist and encourage eligible children in acquiring a standard of education compatible with their aptitude and ability, and to prepare them to enter an agricultural, commercial, professional, or industrial calling of their own choice. Eligible children are children of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as service-related; or of ex-servicemen who died from causes not service-related but who were receiving at the date of death a war pension at a special rate for blindness, total and permanent incapacity, pulmonary tuberculosis, or amputation of two or more limbs; or of ex-servicemen who, as a result of service, are blinded, totally and permanently incapacitated, or receiving the special rate pension for pulmonary tuberculosis and are likely to receive such pension for a period of at least three years. From the commencement of primary education up to twelve years, school requisites and fares are provided. An education allowance is also payable for a child from commencement of secondary education or from the age of twelve years, whichever is the earlier, while the child is undertaking primary or secondary education. Further assistance beyond, or parallel with, the later years of secondary education is provided where an approved beneficiary continues with a course of specialised education or training necessary for a career. At this stage of training, in addition to the education allowance, fees are paid and text books, essential equipment and other minor benefits are provided.

All education allowances are subject to an allowed income limit test, i.e. the amount of education allowance payable depends on the amount of income a child receives over the allowed limit. The scale of maximum allowances payable to eligible children at various stages of education is as follows.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME WEEKLY RATES OF ALLOWANCES, FROM 1 JANUARY 1974 (\$)

<i>Type of training</i>	<i>Living at home</i>	<i>Living away from home</i>
At school—		
Aged 12 and under 14 years	3.25	10.75
Aged 14 " " 16 years	4.90	10.75
Aged 16 " " 18 years	10.75	16.65
Professional (university, etc.)	16.35	26.93
Agricultural . . . . .	..	5.40
Industrial (apprenticeship, etc.)	3.95	7.80

The following tables show the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30 June 1973 and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1973.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1972-73
(*\$'000*)

	<i>N.S.W.(a)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.(b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age	5	4	7	1	1	1	19
12 years of age and over	1,338	915	612	336	187	148	3,536
Total expenditure	1,343	919	619	337	188	149	(c) 3,555

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$18,000.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a)
AT 30 JUNE 1973

<i>Type of training</i>	<i>N.S.W. (b)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A. (c)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Over- seas</i>	<i>Total</i>
At school—								
Aged under 14 years(d)	570	347	311	117	74	106	4	1,529
Aged 14 and under 16 years	707	465	394	183	124	112	16	2,001
Aged 16 and under 18 years	657	511	202	169	57	51	11	1,658
Total at school	1,934	1,323	907	469	255	269	31	5,188
Professional	492	369	225	148	90	39	13	1,376
Agricultural	4	7	10	1	3	..	..	25
Industrial . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand total	2,430	1,699	1,142	618	348	308	44	6,589

(a) Refers only to children in receipt of an education allowance. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory. (d) From 12 years of age or the commencement of secondary education, whichever is the earlier.

Settlement of returned service personnel on the land

Reference to the settlement of returned service personnel on the land will be found in the chapter Rural Industry.

Re-establishment benefits for regular and national servicemen

Subject to prescribed conditions, vocational training and business loans are provided for former regular and national servicemen, with a view to ensuring that they are not at a disadvantage when they return to civil life. Appropriate full or part-time training is provided where considered necessary or desirable for effective re-settlement. Payment of tuition fees and associated fees and fares, and of an allowance for necessary books and/or equipment, is made in all approved cases, while trainees who undertake approved full-time training receive living allowances. Loans of up to \$3,000 (business and professional) and \$6,000 (agricultural) may be granted to ex-servicemen in these categories who satisfy prescribed requirements in respect of suitability of their proposed business propositions and adequacy of security.

The Services Canteens Trust Fund

The Services Canteens Trust Fund was established under the *Services Trust Funds Act 1947*. Its funds are derived from the assets and profits of wartime services canteens, mess and regimental funds of disbanded units, and several other sources.

The total amount transferred to the Fund to 31 December 1973 was \$11,057,551. The Act prescribed that, of this, \$5 million and such further amounts as the trustees of the Fund might from time to time decide, should be devoted to the provision of education facilities for the children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen, and that the balance of the Fund should be used to provide relief for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by ten honorary trustees appointed by the Governor-General. The trustees have power to determine the persons or groups of persons to benefit from the Fund and the extent of the benefits to be granted within the provisions of the Act, and to appoint regional committees to assist with the administration. Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939-45 War or are widows of men who served during the war. The trustees and members of regional committees serve in an honorary capacity.

Assistance from the Fund

Persons eligible for assistance from the Fund are those who, between 3 September 1939 and 30 June 1947, served in the Australian Naval, Military or Air Forces, including members of the canteens staff of any ship of the Royal Australian Navy, persons duly accredited to any part of the Defence Forces who served in an official capacity on full-time paid duty, and their dependants. The trustees have introduced schemes for providing welfare relief for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are eligible for benefits, and for their dependants; benefits for children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are suffering from serious and incapacitating afflictions; and education benefits for the children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen. From its inauguration in 1947 the Fund is to be available for forty years for both welfare relief and educational benefits.

The total assistance granted under these three schemes from the inception of the Fund to 31 December 1973 was \$13,137,257 (\$425,078 during 1973) distributed as follows: *Welfare relief*, \$4,038,229 (\$140,818); *Assistance for afflicted children*, \$340,996 (\$4,485); and *Educational assistance*, \$8,758,032 (\$279,775).

For detailed information on the operation of the Fund reference should be made to the annual reports of the Services Canteens Trust Fund.

Ex-service personnel, widows and children

In November 1971, a survey based on the quarterly population survey (*see* Chapter 20, Employment and Unemployment) was conducted at the request of the Repatriation Department and the Services Canteens Trust Fund. The survey questions were designed to identify four classes of person, namely:

- (a) those who had served in the Australian armed forces during wartime;
- (b) those ex-service personnel who had a disability which had been accepted by the Repatriation Department as having been war-caused and those who were in receipt of a war pension;
- (c) widows of men who had served during wartime;
- (d) children, under 21 years of age, of ex-service personnel or their widows.

Details of the survey were published in Year Book No. 59, page 112 and the mimeographed bulletin *Ex-service Personnel, widows and children*, November 1971 (Reference No. 15.1).