

## CHAPTER 5

### REPATRIATION

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act* 1920–1966, 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 central office is in Melbourne and there is a branch office, under the control of a Deputy Commissioner, in each State.

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

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

Other functions of the Repatriation Department are outlined in a later section of this chapter.

For information on war service land settlement see Chapter 20, Public Finance; for statistics relating to war service homes see Chapter 10, Housing and Building and 20, Public Finance.

#### 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 This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* 1920 (amended from 31 December 1950 to the Repatriation Act). The main features relating to war pensions under repatriation legislation are set out in the following paragraphs.

##### Eligibility for pensions

Claims for eligibility for war pensions are determined in the first instance by Repatriation Boards, of which there is one in each State of the Commonwealth. Members of women's services are eligible for pensions and other benefits, as prescribed in the Act, on the same basis as male members of the forces. 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. These provisions are summarised as follows.

A member of the forces who served (a) outside Australia, (b) in the Territories of Australia, such as Papua and New Guinea, or (c) within Australia in circumstances which can be regarded as combat against the enemy is covered for war pension purposes in respect of incapacity or death which may result from any occurrence that happened during the period from the date of his enlistment to the date of the termination of his service in respect of that enlistment.

In other cases where a member served only in Australia, incapacity or death to be pensionable must have been attributable to service.

There is a third ground applicable to all members except those with less than six months camp service. This provides that, where a condition existed at enlistment, a pension may accrue if it is considered that the condition was aggravated by service.

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

*Korea and Malaya operations.* The commencement of hostilities in Korea and Malaya in 1950 made necessary the insertion in the Repatriation Act of a new division, under the terms of which the pension provisions of the Act were extended to Australian ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who served or were allotted for duty in prescribed operational areas. A new Regulation was also made, in 1951, to make such service personnel eligible for almost all the benefits available under the existing Regulations applicable to members of the forces.

*Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956–1966.* Provision was made under this Act for Australian forces who served in South-east Asia as part of the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve. This Act, together with Regulations made under it, gave members with Malayan service the right to many benefits available under the Repatriation Act.

*Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962–1966.* This legislation provides repatriation benefits for serving members of the defence forces, the circumstances of whose service expose them to risks above the normal conditions of peace-time service. Regulations made under the Act prescribe special areas within which service qualifies for Repatriation benefits. These special areas now include the Malayan Peninsula and Singapore and fifty miles to seaward, but excluding the territories of Indonesia; South Vietnam; an area in Borneo comprising Sarawak, Brunei and Sabah and an area fifty miles to seaward but excluding any territories of the Philippines.

#### Rates

The main classes of war pensions are the special (T.P.I.) rate, the intermediate rate, the general rate, and the war widows' pension. These are not subject to a means test except where stated for certain classes of dependants.

The *special rate* of war pension is payable to those who are totally and permanently incapacitated and are unable to earn more than a negligible percentage of a living wage. The weekly rate is \$30.50, plus \$4.05 wife's allowance and \$1.38 for each child under sixteen years.

The *intermediate rate* of war pension, which previously applied only to certain cases of tuberculosis, was extended from 6 October 1965 to include ex-servicemen who, because of the severity of a war-caused incapacity, can only work part-time or intermittently and in consequence are unable to earn a living wage. The weekly rate is \$21.25, plus \$4.05 wife's allowance and \$1.38 for each child under sixteen years.

The *general rate* of war pension is the rate payable to those who suffer war-caused disabilities but are not thereby prevented from working, although their earning capacity may be reduced. The actual pension payable is assessed in accordance with the degree of incapacity suffered. The maximum (100 per cent) rate is \$12 a week. A wife, and children under sixteen years, also receive pensions at rates according to the assessed degree of incapacity of the ex-serviceman, the maximum being \$4.05 for a wife and \$1.38 for each child.

The *war widows' pension* is paid to widows of ex-servicemen who died as a result of war service and to their children under the age of sixteen years. A war widow's pension may also be paid to the widow of an ex-serviceman who was receiving, at the time of his death, the special rate of war pension or the equivalent rate payable to double amputees. The weekly rates are: widow, \$13; first child, \$3.90; second and each subsequent child, \$2.75.

*Other dependants* of an ex-serviceman who is suffering from a disability due to war service may be granted pensions under certain circumstances. Such pensions are subject to a means test and are assessed in accordance with the degree of the ex-serviceman's incapacity. Except in the case of a widowed mother of an unmarried ex-serviceman, other dependants are required to prove dependence on the ex-serviceman.

#### Allowances

The following allowances are provided in addition to pension.

*Domestic allowance* (\$7 a week). This is paid, in addition to pension, to a widow of an ex-serviceman whose death is due to war service; if she is fifty years of age, or is permanently unemployable, or has a dependent child under the age of sixteen years, or a dependent child over sixteen years being educated or trained and not in receipt of an adequate living wage.

*Attendant's allowance* (maximum rate \$10.50 a week). This allowance is paid, in addition to war pension, to certain classes of seriously disabled ex-servicemen, for example, war blinded, those who are paralysed, and certain double amputees.

*Clothing allowance.* A clothing allowance is paid at various rates (38c to 75c a week) to an ex-serviceman who, as a result of war service, has lost an arm or a leg or, because of an injury to a limb, is required to use a surgical aid or appliance. An amount not exceeding \$19.50 in any one year is also payable to certain other war disabled ex-servicemen.

*Sustenance allowance.* This allowance is paid where an ex-serviceman is prevented from following his normal occupation through treatment of a war-caused disability or while undergoing medical investigation. The rate payable, where out-patient treatment is being received for a period of up to four weeks, or in-patient medical investigation is being carried out, is the same as the general (100 per cent) rate pension, less the amount of any war pension being paid.

Where an ex-serviceman is receiving in-patient treatment for a war-caused disability, is undergoing periods of essential convalescence immediately following discharge from hospital, or is prevented from following his usual occupation because of the necessity of out-patient treatment for a war-caused disability for a continuous period in excess of four weeks, a higher rate to bring the sustenance allowance up to the equivalent of the special (T.P.I.) rate is paid.

The wife, and any children under sixteen years of age, of an ex-serviceman who is receiving a sustenance allowance, are paid an amount which, when added to any war pension being paid, is equal to the full general rate pension for a wife and such children.

*Recreation transport allowance.* This allowance provides transport for recreation purposes and may be paid to an ex-serviceman who, as a result of war service, suffers certain amputations of the arms or legs or is seriously disabled to the extent that his powers of locomotion are negligible.

*Other allowances and general assistance.* These include a guardian's allowance, re-establishment loans and allowances, funeral benefits, vocational training allowances for education and training of children, fares and allowances for loss of remunerative time in connection with medical or pension purposes, and motor vehicle allowances for seriously disabled ex-servicemen.

#### Appeals tribunals

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

#### 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, 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 chapter.

#### WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1965-66

	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service (a)	Total
New claims granted . . . . . No.	1,455	20,121	801	170	168	22,715
Restorations . . . . . No.	100	453	18			571
Claims rejected(b) . . . . . No.	1,402	5,620	277	87	17	7,403
Pensions cancelled (gross) No.	406	25,826	183	16	3	26,434
Deaths of pensioners . . . . . No.	5,441	4,831	29	1	1	10,303
Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1966 . . . . .	103,041	531,217	10,317	1,012	181	645,768
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1966 . . . . . \$'000	54,818	100,798	1,116	99	34	156,865
Amount paid in pen- sions during the year 1965-66 . . . . . \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	170,146

(a) See page 92—*Repatriation (Special Overseas Services) Act 1962-1966.*

(b) Number of ex-servicemen who had their claims for all their disabilities rejected.

#### WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1961-62 TO 1965-66

	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
New claims granted . . . . .	34,337	36,118	32,235	27,774	22,715
Restorations . . . . .	1,300	1,035	992	803	571
<i>Total additions</i> . . . . .	<i>35,637</i>	<i>37,153</i>	<i>33,227</i>	<i>28,577</i>	<i>23,286</i>
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . . . .	18,816	28,020	25,275	25,932	26,434
Deaths of pensioners . . . . .	7,950	8,867	9,440	10,339	10,303
<i>Total reductions</i> . . . . .	<i>26,766</i>	<i>36,887</i>	<i>34,715</i>	<i>36,271</i>	<i>36,737</i>

## Classes of war pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the total number of new claims granted, pensions in force and members on special rates for 1965-66.

## WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1965-66

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
Ex-servicemen . . . . .	639	5,535	148	38	59	6,419
Wives of ex-servicemen . . . . .	666	5,669	149	38	44	6,566
Children . . . . .	143	8,743	503	94	65	9,548
Other dependants . . . . .	7	174	1	..	..	182
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>20,121</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>22,715</b>

## WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1966

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
Ex-servicemen . . . . .	39,219	180,874	2,807	314	61	223,275
Wives . . . . .	38,585	154,421	2,166	217	32	195,421
Children . . . . .	600	162,964	4,971	428	44	169,007
War widows . . . . .	23,860	19,688	105	13	17	43,683
Children of deceased ex-servicemen . . . . .	113	6,113	149	35	26	6,436
Orphans . . . . .	14	144	3	1	..	162
Parents . . . . .	413	6,617	111	3	1	7,145
Brothers and sisters . . . . .	40	97	4	..	..	141
Others . . . . .	197	299	1	1	..	498
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>103,041</b>	<b>531,217</b>	<b>10,317</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>645,768</b>

## WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES OR EQUIVALENT, AUSTRALIA 30 JUNE 1966

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
Totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen . . . . .	11,147	10,694	42	..	..	21,883
Blinded ex-servicemen . . . . .	207	239	2	..	..	448
Tuberculous ex-servicemen . . . . .	342	200	3	..	..	545
Tuberculous ex-servicemen (intermediate rate) . . . . .	83	201	4	..	..	288
Temporarily totally incapacitated ex-servicemen . . . . .	278	1,464	28	4	..	1,774
Ex-servicemen suffering other disabilities . . . . .	45	49	2	..	..	96
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>12,102</b>	<b>12,847</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>25,034</b>

## Number of war pensions and annual liability, States, etc., 30 June 1966

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war, field of operations or service at 30 June 1966 according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown later in this chapter.)

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY  
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1966**

Place of payment	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1966				Annual pension liability (a) (\$'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
<b>1914-18 WAR</b>					
New South Wales(b)	12,641	12,534	8,315	33,490	18,290
Victoria	12,738	12,478	8,168	33,384	18,101
Queensland	5,276	5,220	2,548	13,044	7,111
South Australia(c)	3,114	3,270	1,951	8,335	4,262
Western Australia	3,056	3,445	1,642	8,143	3,540
Tasmania	1,659	1,639	987	4,285	2,482
Abroad	735	925	700	2,360	1,032
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,219</b>	<b>39,511</b>	<b>24,311</b>	<b>103,041</b>	<b>54,818</b>

**1939-45 WAR**

New South Wales(b)	63,809	106,703	12,153	182,665	35,745
Victoria	49,178	88,014	8,466	145,658	27,049
Queensland	26,914	49,979	4,795	81,688	16,598
South Australia(c)	17,642	31,743	3,065	52,450	9,066
Western Australia	15,881	26,880	2,634	45,395	8,023
Tasmania	6,865	13,878	985	21,728	3,874
Abroad	585	747	301	1,633	503
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,874</b>	<b>317,944</b>	<b>32,399</b>	<b>531,217</b>	<b>100,798</b>

**KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS**

New South Wales(b)	1,092	2,685	139	3,916	415
Victoria	651	1,541	59	2,251	237
Queensland	495	1,346	78	1,919	219
South Australia(c)	200	528	17	745	81
Western Australia	223	650	31	904	93
Tasmania	96	308	11	415	41
Abroad	50	82	35	167	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>7,140</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>10,317</b>	<b>1,116</b>

**FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE**

New South Wales(b)	132	307	23	462	42
Victoria	55	88	19	162	20
Queensland	88	180	6	274	25
South Australia(c)	9	23	..	32	2
Western Australia	25	37	3	65	7
Tasmania	3	6	1	10	2
Abroad	2	5	..	7	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>99</b>

(a) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.  
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY  
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1966—*continued*

Place of payment	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1966				Annual pension liability (a) (\$'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
<b>SPECIAL OVERSEAS SERVICE</b>					
New South Wales(b)	36	55	24	115	21
Victoria	4	4	6	14	3
Queensland	14	11	7	32	5
South Australia(c)	4	2	..	6	1
Western Australia	3	4	7	14	4
Tasmania	..	..	..	..	..
Abroad	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>					
New South Wales(b)	77,710	122,284	20,654	220,648	54,513
Victoria	62,626	102,125	16,718	181,469	45,410
Queensland	32,787	56,736	7,434	96,957	23,958
South Australia(c)	20,969	35,566	5,033	61,568	13,352
Western Australia	19,188	31,016	4,317	54,521	11,667
Tasmania	8,623	15,831	1,984	26,438	6,399
Abroad	1,372	1,759	1,036	4,167	1,566
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>223,275</b>	<b>365,317</b>	<b>57,176</b>	<b>645,768</b>	<b>156,865</b>

(a) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.  
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

**Summary of war pensions**

The following table shows, for each war, field of operations or service and in total, the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1962 to 1966.

**WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1961-62 TO 1965-66**

Year	Pensions granted	Claims rejected (a)	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June				Annual pension liability at 30 June (b) (\$'000)
			Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
<b>1914-18 WAR</b>							
1961-62	2,422	1,872	48,670	46,772	23,144	118,586	47,781
1962-63	2,394	1,854	46,606	45,212	23,566	115,384	47,410
1963-64	2,050	1,678	44,401	43,521	23,846	111,768	47,145
1964-65	1,631	1,481	41,820	41,353	24,191	107,364	47,730
1965-66	1,455	1,402	39,219	39,511	24,311	103,041	54,818
<b>1939-45 WAR</b>							
1961-62	30,794	7,030	165,101	350,297	28,506	543,904	77,107
1962-63	32,496	6,125	170,534	345,914	29,723	546,231	81,092
1963-64	29,119	6,113	175,301	341,272	30,803	547,376	85,336
1964-65	25,068	5,525	178,463	331,164	31,847	541,474	92,015
1965-66	20,121	5,620	180,874	317,944	32,399	531,217	100,798

(a) The number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities rejected. (b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

## WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1961-62 TO 1965-66—continued

Year	Pensions granted	Claims rejected (a)	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June				Annual pension liability at 30 June (b) (\$'000)
			Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
<b>KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS</b>							
1961-62 . . . . .	969	383	2,208	4,919	285	7,412	797
1962-63 . . . . .	1,035	342	2,412	5,618	290	8,320	876
1963-64 . . . . .	862	271	2,554	6,175	322	9,051	945
1964-65 . . . . .	858	231	2,687	6,673	340	9,700	1,031
1965-66 . . . . .	801	277	2,807	7,140	370	10,317	1,116
<b>FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE</b>							
1961-62 . . . . .	152	70	104	146	26	276	32
1962-63 . . . . .	193	48	166	264	36	466	48
1963-64 . . . . .	196	58	223	396	39	658	62
1964-65 . . . . .	208	49	275	536	39	850	76
1965-66 . . . . .	170	87	314	646	52	1,012	99
<b>SPECIAL OVERSEAS SERVICE(c)</b>							
1963-64 . . . . .	8	..	1	5	2	8	1
1964-65 . . . . .	9	..	3	8	6	17	3
1965-66 . . . . .	168	17	61	76	44	181	34
<b>TOTAL</b>							
1961-62 . . . . .	34,337	9,355	216,083	402,134	51,961	670,178	125,718
1962-63 . . . . .	36,118	8,369	219,778	397,008	53,615	670,401	129,427
1963-64 . . . . .	32,235	8,120	222,480	391,369	55,012	668,861	133,489
1964-65 . . . . .	27,774	7,286	223,248	379,734	56,423	659,405	140,854
1965-66 . . . . .	22,715	7,403	223,275	365,317	57,176	645,768	156,865

(a) The number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities rejected. (b) Includes domestic allowances payable to widows. (c) Not applicable prior to 1963-64.

The following table shows, for the years 1961-62 to 1965-66, the amounts paid in pensions and the places where they were paid.

## WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID(a), STATES, ETC., 1961-62 TO 1965-66 (\$'000)

Place of payment	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64 (b)	1964-65	1965-66
New South Wales(c) . . . . .	46,091	48,106	53,108	52,809	58,851
Victoria . . . . .	40,281	41,815	45,526	45,064	49,526
Queensland . . . . .	19,300	20,750	23,040	23,295	25,928
South Australia(d) . . . . .	12,016	12,349	13,500	13,209	14,633
Western Australia . . . . .	10,162	10,509	11,547	11,430	12,617
Tasmania . . . . .	5,351	5,663	6,152	6,210	6,914
Abroad . . . . .	1,605	1,539	1,656	1,466	1,677
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>134,805</b>	<b>140,731</b>	<b>154,530</b>	<b>153,483</b>	<b>170,146</b>

(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 1940-1966*, the *Interim Forces Benefits Act 1947-1966*, the *Native Members of the Forces Benefits Act 1957-1966*, and Cabinet decisions granting eligibility to persons who were attached to the armed forces during war time.

The following table shows the number of pensions under the various Acts, and the annual liability at 30 June 1966, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1961-62 to 1965-66 and the place of payment.

**MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1966**

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1966				Annual pension liability (\$'000)
	Members (a)	Dependants of members	Dependants of deceased members	Total	
Act of grace . . . . .	121	151	57	329	107
Seamen's war pension . . . . .	70	108	82	260	80
New Guinea civilians . . . . .	1	..	85	86	84
Interim forces . . . . .	11	26	..	37	2
Native members of the forces	91	240	19	350	36
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>309</b>

(a) 'Member' in this context is a person in respect of whose wartime experience a pension is paid.

**MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC.  
1961-62 TO 1965-66  
(\$'000)**

Place of payment	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64 (a)	1964-65	1965-66
New South Wales(b) . . . . .	137	144	150	156	161
Victoria . . . . .	66	67	71	70	76
Queensland . . . . .	46	38	45	42	46
South Australia(c) . . . . .	32	32	35	30	34
Western Australia . . . . .	16	17	17	17	20
Tasmania . . . . .	4	5	5	4	4
Abroad . . . . .	2	3	..	1	3
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>344</b>

(a) Includes five 12-weekly payments.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes Northern Territory.

**Service pensions**

The *Repatriation Act 1920-1966* provides for a service pension to be paid, subject to a means test of income and property, to the following persons.

- Ex-servicemen who served in a theatre of war 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.

**Rates of pension**

The maximum rate of service pension is the same as that paid to an age or invalid pensioner by the Department of Social Services. A single or married ex-serviceman receives a pension of \$13.00 a week. If, however, an ex-serviceman's wife is receiving a social service pension, a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension as a member of the forces, the rate is \$11.75 a week. The service pension of an ex-serviceman is increased by \$1.50 a week for each eligible child other than the first and by \$4.00 a week if a guardian's allowance is payable.

The maximum weekly rates payable to a service pensioner's wife and eligible children are: wife, \$6.00; first child, \$1.50; other children up to three in number, 25c each. *Eligible child* means a child of a service pensioner, under the age of sixteen years, or a child over that age who



is wholly or substantially dependent on the pensioner and is undergoing full-time education, in which case pension may continue until the child's twenty-first birthday.

Supplementary assistance of \$2.00 a week is paid in addition to service pension to an ex-serviceman who is paying rent, or for lodging, or board and lodging, and whose *means as assessed* do not exceed \$1.00 a week or \$2.00 a week if he is married. (The allowance is reduced if the *means as assessed* exceed these amounts.)

A service pensioner who is unmarried, widowed, divorced, or married but separated, and who has care and control of one or more children, qualifies for a guardian's allowance of \$4.00 a week.

The means test sets limits to the amount of income or property which a pensioner may have for the purpose of service pension. The amount of service pension payable depends upon the claimant's *means as assessed*, which consist of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to \$2.00 for each complete unit of \$20 of net value of property above \$400. For married couples, except where they are separated or in other special circumstances, the income and property of each for purposes of applying the means test is taken to be half the total income and property of both, even if only one is a pensioner or claimant. A person's *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of property, or of both income and property components. If a single person's *means as assessed* do not exceed \$7 a week, he receives the maximum rate of pension. If his *means as assessed* exceed \$7 a week, the rate payable is the maximum rate less the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$7 a week. If his *means as assessed* are \$20 a week or more, no service pension is payable.

Income means earnings and other forms of income derived from any source, with certain exceptions, of which the principal are: certain income derived from property, gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters, benefits from friendly societies, child endowment, Commonwealth health benefits. The value of board and lodging received by a pensioner, either free or in return for services, is normally assessed as income at \$1.25 a week. Property includes all real and personal property, such as houses, land, money in hand, in a bank or on loan, shares, investments or legacies, vehicles used for business purposes, and livestock. Property does not include an applicant's permanent home, furniture or personal effects, the surrender value of life insurance policies (up to \$1,500), the value of any reversionary interest, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, or vehicles maintained only for personal use.

Eligibility for service pensions was extended on 1 November 1941 to veterans of the South African War 1899–1902 and in 1943 to members of the Forces of the 1939–45 War. Members of the Forces who served in Korea and those who served in Malaya prior to the commencement of the *Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956–1966* are also eligible.

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

### Operations

The following tables give a summary of service pensions.

#### SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1965–66

	South African War	1914–18 War	1939–45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Miscellaneous (a)	Total
New claims granted . . .	9	3,173	4,814	15	19	8,030
Restorations . . .	..	529	504	13	3	1,049
Cancellations (gross) . . .	2	1,772	2,447	14	12	4,247
Deaths . . .	22	3,192	775	1	5	3,995
Pensions in force at 30 June 1966 . . .	340	44,118	21,110	67	259	65,894
Annual liability at 30 June 1966 . . . \$'000	132	19,473	6,923	17	92	26,637
Amount paid in pensions during 1965–66 \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	28,172

(a) Includes native members of the forces and act of grace pensions.

## SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1961-62 TO 1965-66

	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
New claims granted . . .	13,007	11,485	9,822	8,209	8,030
Restorations . . . . .	926	962	1,065	1,035	1,049
<i>Total additions</i> . . . . .	<i>13,933</i>	<i>12,447</i>	<i>10,887</i>	<i>9,244</i>	<i>9,079</i>
Cancellations (gross) . . .	3,925	4,595	4,675	4,933	4,247
Deaths . . . . .	2,736	3,274	3,572	3,944	3,995
<i>Total reductions</i> . . . . .	<i>6,661</i>	<i>7,869</i>	<i>8,247</i>	<i>8,877</i>	<i>8,242</i>

## Classes of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1965-66.

## SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1965-66

Class	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Miscellaneous	Total
Ex-servicemen . . . . .	9	2,423	2,818	7	..	5,257
Wives of ex-servicemen . . .	..	621	1,053	2	..	1,676
Children . . . . .	..	129	943	6	..	1,078
Other . . . . .	..	..	..	..	19	19
<b>Total.</b> . . . . .	<b>9</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>4,814</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8,030</b>

## SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, STATES, 30 JUNE 1966

State	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Miscellaneous	Total
New South Wales(a) . . . . .	158	14,309	6,551	17	..	21,035
Victoria . . . . .	61	11,644	4,473	14	3	16,195
Queensland . . . . .	38	6,917	4,262	19	251	11,487
South Australia(b) . . . . .	39	5,005	1,734	2	3	6,783
Western Australia . . . . .	35	4,686	3,025	9	2	7,757
Tasmania . . . . .	9	1,557	1,065	6	..	2,637
<b>Australia</b> . . . . .	<b>340</b>	<b>44,118</b>	<b>21,110</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>65,894</b>

(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 ability and the amounts paid for the years 1961-62 to 1965-66.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 1961-62 TO 1965-66**

Year	Number of service pensions at 30 June payable to—						Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)
	Aged ex-service-men	Ex-servicemen who are—		Dependants <sup>(a)</sup> of ex-servicemen where the ex-serviceman is—		Miscellaneous <sup>(b)</sup>		
		Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Aged or permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis			
1961-62 . . . . .	27,479	13,603	1,246	13,597	1,663	..	57,588	20,860
1962-63 . . . . .	30,818	14,278	1,160	14,368	1,537	..	62,161	22,759
1963-64 <sup>(b)</sup> . . . . .	32,834	14,471	1,118	14,701	1,464	200	64,788	24,652
1964-65 . . . . .	33,938	14,222	1,076	14,336	1,352	254	65,178	25,685
1965-66 . . . . .	34,381	14,321	1,065	14,571	1,297	259	65,894	26,637

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners. (b) Miscellaneous service pensions were not payable prior to 1963-64.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC., 1961-62 TO 1965-66<sup>(a)</sup> (\$'000)**

Place of payment	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
New South Wales <sup>(b)</sup> . . . . .	6,313	7,095	7,981	8,494	9,499
Victoria . . . . .	4,244	4,949	5,654	5,974	6,626
Queensland . . . . .	3,250	3,362	(c) 3,823	4,048	4,477
South Australia <sup>(d)</sup> . . . . .	2,193	2,487	2,689	2,766	3,025
Western Australia . . . . .	2,687	2,927	3,177	3,320	3,571
Tasmania . . . . .	736	837	874	904	964
Abroad . . . . .	..	..	..	2	10
<b>Australia . . . . .</b>	<b>19,423</b>	<b>21,657</b>	<b>(c) 24,198</b>	<b>25,508</b>	<b>28,172</b>

(a) Includes miscellaneous service pensions which first became payable in 1963-64. However, separate figures for the amounts payable in that year (all in Queensland) are not available. Therefore the amounts payable in 1963-64 are not included above but with miscellaneous war pensions (see page 98). (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) See footnote (a). (d) 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 due to war service. 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 service pensioners, including service pensioners of the Boer War.

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

The total number of available beds for patients in open wards or parts of wards in all these institutions at 30 June 1966 was 4,168, and expenditure amounted to \$23,095,058. In addition, expenditure of \$27,773,215 was incurred 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  
STATES, 30 JUNE 1966**

Type of institution	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
<b>General hospitals—</b>							
Medical staff . . . . .	104	76	32	18	27	8	265
Nursing staff . . . . .	757	492	256	223	198	44	1,970
Other staff . . . . .	1,072	770	474	310	438	115	3,179
<i>Total, general hospitals</i> ..	<i>1,933</i>	<i>1,338</i>	<i>762</i>	<i>551</i>	<i>663</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>5,414</i>
<b>Other in-patient institutions(a)</b> .	213	112	169	36	35	..	565
Out-patient clinics(a) . . . . .	163	73	21	32	24	..	313
Limb and appliance centres(a) .	76	69	30	21	14	11	221
<b>Grand total</b> . . . . .	<b>2,385</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>6,513</b>

(a) 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 cases, e.g. a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: IN-PATIENTS  
TREATED, STATES, 1965-66**

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
<b>REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS</b>							
In-patients at beginning of year	1,397	762	537	347	401	113	3,557
Admissions and re-admissions during year . . . . .	18,415	10,514	8,526	4,800	5,902	1,700	49,857
<i>Total in-patients treated</i> ..	<i>19,812</i>	<i>11,276</i>	<i>9,063</i>	<i>5,147</i>	<i>6,303</i>	<i>1,813</i>	<i>53,414</i>
Discharges . . . . .	17,591	9,700	8,197	4,519	5,558	1,599	47,164
Deaths . . . . .	958	846	384	321	354	98	2,961
In-patients at end of year . . . . .	1,263	730	482	307	391	116	3,289
Average daily number resident . . . . .	1,276	692	456	300	409	98	3,231

**OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS**

In-patients at beginning of year	176	110	131	29	33	..	479
Admissions and re-admissions during year . . . . .	1,427	210	952	134	201	..	2,924
<i>Total in-patients treated</i> ..	<i>1,603</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>1,083</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>234</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>3,403</i>
Discharges . . . . .	1,366	211	956	127	199	..	2,859
Deaths . . . . .	42	5	8	..	..	..	55
In-patients at end of year . . . . .	195	104	119	36	35	..	489
Average daily number resident . . . . .	185	102	126	36	29	..	478

In addition to the Repatriation institutions, eligible patients may be treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at Repatriation expense. During 1965-66, 13,523 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 465 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. At 30 June 1966 there were 845 Repatriation patients in these hospitals.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout the Commonwealth at Repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1965-66, 566,461 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,708,088.

### General Repatriation benefits and miscellaneous

#### Other Repatriation Department activities

The activities of the Department in respect of general benefits for the welfare of ex-servicemen and dependants concern mainly education and training of children under the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme (see pages 104-5), medical benefits for widows and children of deceased ex-servicemen and for widowed mothers of deceased unmarried ex-servicemen, funeral expenses for certain classes of ex-servicemen and dependants, and allowances to certain classes of dependants.

These and new benefits designed for the re-establishment of servicemen and servicewomen after discharge were extended and made available, by legislation passed in June 1940, to servicemen and servicewomen engaged in the 1939-45 War, and in November 1950 and May 1963 to those engaged in the Korea and Malaya operations and to those serving in such other areas as may be prescribed under the *Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act* 1962-1966, respectively. The re-establishment benefits generally administered by the Repatriation Commission are: payment of re-employment allowance while awaiting employment; provision of tools of trade and equipment where they are necessary to employment; transportation expenses to meet the cost of fares and removal of household belongings where an ex-serviceman takes up training, employment, or a business, or settles on the land; supplements to wages of apprentices whose apprenticeships were interrupted by war service; re-establishment loans to enable ex-servicemen and widows to establish themselves in business, practices or occupations, including (until the Division of War Service Land Settlement began operations early in 1946) agricultural occupations; payment of re-establishment allowances during the early stages of establishment in business; gifts up to \$150 for furniture to ex-servicemen who are blind or totally and permanently incapacitated, also to widows with children under sixteen years of age; and free passages to Australia for wives, widows and children of ex-servicemen who married abroad (and passages outward from Australia in certain cases of ex-servicemen and dependants).

In 1949 the Department took over the functions of the Re-establishment Division of the former Department of Post-War Reconstruction and became responsible for the co-ordination of all matters relating to training under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. This scheme is now concluded, the prescribed time limits for eligibility having expired on 30 June 1950. Re-establishment of the more seriously disabled, where ordinary training is not sufficient, continues to be a function of the Department, and special means have to be found to overcome each problem.

Expenditure in 1965-66 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$4,036,000, comprising: Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, \$2,534,000; recreation transport allowance, \$614,000; and other benefits \$888,000. In addition, \$34,000 was expended by other Commonwealth authorities on Repatriation employment and vocational training.

#### Expenditure by the Repatriation Department, 1965-66

The net expenditure by the Department for the year ended 30 June 1966 was \$266,837,330 distributed as follows.

	\$'000
Pensions, allowances and other benefits . . . . .	202,698
Medical treatment . . . . .	50,868
Administration . . . . .	10,074
Works, rent and maintenance . . . . .	3,197
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>266,837</b>

**Soldiers' Children Education Scheme**

The Soldiers' Children Education Scheme was established in 1921 and operates with the assistance of 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.* Eligible children are children of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service; or of ex-servicemen who died from causes not due to war service 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 war 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.

*General benefits.* 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. Specialised education covers a wide range and may include: professional degree or diploma courses at universities and technical colleges; theological training; cadet and pupilage training, i.e. training combined with employment, such as nursing, pharmacy and journalism; industrial, including apprenticeship training, and other courses of trade and business training approved by an Education Board; and agricultural training at an agricultural college. At this stage of training, in addition to the education allowance, fees are paid and text books, essential equipment and other minor benefits provided.

All education allowances are subject to an allowed income limit test, i.e. the amount of education allowance payable depends upon the amount of income a child receives over the allowed limit. The child's income for the purpose of determining the allowance payable means earnings from employment and other earnings from personal exertion and such portion of a scholarship, bursary or grant as the Education Board determines to be income. Income does not include war or service pensions paid for the child or any similar payment, income the child receives from private means, or income from casual employment during the entire period of a school or university vacation where the student is to continue as a full-time student under the scheme after the vacation. The parent's income does not affect the child's allowance. 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, JANUARY 1967**  
(£)

Type of training	Living at home	Living away from home
At school—		
Aged 12 and under 14 years . . .	1.90	6.32
Aged 14 „ „ 16 years . . .	2.88	6.32
Aged 16 „ „ 18 years . . .	6.33	9.78
Professional (university, etc.) . . .	10.75	16.40
Agricultural . . . . .	..	3.18
Industrial (apprenticeship, etc.) . . .	2.30	4.60

The following tables show the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30 June 1966 and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1966.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1965-66**  
(\\$'000)

	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Autst.
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age . . .	8	7	8	3	1	1	28
12 years of age and over . . .	883	675	435	234	162	103	2,492
<b>Total expenditure . . .</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>(c)2,520</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$14,000.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a)**  
AT 30 JUNE 1966

Type of training	N.S.W. (b)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (c)	W.A.	Tas.	Abroad	Total
At school—								
Aged under 14 years(d)	905	656	462	191	195	143	8	2,560
Aged 14 and under 16 years . . . . .	1,085	711	535	281	221	167	10	3,010
Aged 16 and under 18 years . . . . .	539	540	269	164	119	72	9	1,712
<i>Total at school . . . . .</i>	<i>2,529</i>	<i>1,907</i>	<i>1,266</i>	<i>636</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>7,282</i>
Professional . . . . .	355	330	169	128	60	43	14	1,099
Agricultural . . . . .	9	9	13	..	6	..	1	38
Industrial . . . . .	3	10	..	3	14	..	..	30
<b>Grand total . . . . .</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8,449</b>

(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 Public Finance.

**Re-establishment benefits for national servicemen**

Subject to prescribed conditions, special re-establishment benefits are provided for national servicemen under the *Defence (Re-establishment) Act 1965-1966*. They apply to all national servicemen whether or not they have served on 'special service' and ensure that servicemen will not be at a disadvantage on their return to civil life. The scheme includes appropriate full or part-time training as a supplement to skills acquired in the Army, refresher training for specialists and training for those who, for various reasons, may not be able to return to their former employment. The assistance includes payment of tuition fees, other associated fees and fares, and provision of books and equipment as appropriate. A training allowance is also provided for trainees undertaking full-time studies.

Re-establishment loans may be granted, subject to certain conditions, to those national servicemen who, prior to call-up, were engaged in professional practice, business, or agricultural occupations, or who, because of their call-up, were prevented from engaging in these occupations, and who are in need of financial assistance for their re-establishment in civil life.

The maximum amounts of the loans are business and professional \$3,000, agricultural \$6,000.

### 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 1966 was \$11,053,986. 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 eleven honorary trustees appointed by the Governor-General. The trustees have power to determine the persons or groups of persons to benefit from the Fund and the extent of benefits to be granted within the provisions of the Act, and to appoint regional committees to assist with the administration. Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939-45 War or are widows of men who served during the war. They 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 welfare relief and for thirty years for educational benefits.

*Welfare relief.* The trustees have prescribed a policy for welfare relief which makes assistance available only to those who are in genuine distress from which they cannot extricate themselves by their own efforts. To 31 December 1966, \$3,051,862 has been granted as welfare relief from the Fund. \$1,891,228 to ex-servicemen and their dependants, and \$1,160,634 to widows and orphans. The amount granted during 1966 was \$167,712. A total of 33,317 ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and 16,489 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31 December 1966.

*Assistance under Afflicted Children's Scheme.* The Fund assists dependent children suffering from afflictions which permanently disable or seriously retard their progress or prevent the enjoyment of normal health and strength, and who face a prospect of dependence on others for all or part of their lives. The extent to which assistance will be granted in a particular case depends largely on the nature of the child's affliction, the facilities available, the family circumstances, and the funds that can be made available. Up to 31 December 1966, 2,575 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme, involving an expenditure of \$289,836. The amount granted during 1966 was \$12,054. The number of new children assisted in 1966 was 37.

*Educational Assistance Scheme.* Educational assistance is restricted to children who are fifteen years of age and over, thirteen years and over where there are exceptional circumstances, and twelve years in the case of orphans. The object is to assist eligible children to obtain the highest education within their capacity. Assistance is in the form of awards ranging up to \$400 a year depending on the nature of the course undertaken and the family circumstances. These awards are granted chiefly for children at secondary education level, but are also available for other types of education. They are designed to cover, or contribute towards, the cost of essential books, fees in cases where government school courses are not available, fares between the child's home and school, essential equipment and material, uniforms in certain cases, and maintenance for the child while at school. Higher training awards are provided for selected students for post-graduate study, in Australia or overseas, in the ancillary services to medicine, welfare and science, and also for selected craftsmen to gain experience in their trade overseas. One post-graduate scholarship is provided each year for study overseas, valued at \$2,500 per annum for up to three years.

The number of children assisted under the educational assistance scheme to 31 December 1966 was 54,207, and the expenditure on educational awards, post-graduate scholarships and higher training awards to 31 December 1966 was \$6,266,638. The number granted in 1966 was 7,108 at a value of \$614,116.

*Total assistance.* The total assistance granted under the three schemes during 1966 was \$793,882 and from the inception of the Fund to 31 December 1966 totalled \$9,608,336.