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CHAPTER 9

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

The Commonwealth Government, the State Governments and voluntary welfare organisations all provide social welfare services. This chapter concentrates on the benefits and services provided by the Commonwealth Government, principally those of the Departments of Social Security and Veterans' Affairs but mention is also made of the services provided by the Departments of Aboriginal Affairs and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. Also included is a section relating to Income Distribution surveys which provides a summary of the distribution of money income across the Australian population.

Details of services administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health are given in Chapter 10, Health. Details of pension and superannuation schemes for government and semi-government employees, mine workers, parliamentarians and employees of private business are included in Chapter 21, Private Finance.

Commonwealth Government expenditure on social security services

This section deals with various government payments for the relief of the aged, indigent, infirm, widowed, orphaned and unemployed; assistance to families; etc. On 1 July 1947, with the passage of the *Social Services Consolidation Act 1947*, all Acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated. The Act is at present styled the *Social Services Act 1947*.

The main social security benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government under the *Social Services Act 1947*, as at June 1984, and the date on which each came into operation, are shown below:

Age pension	1 July 1909
Invalid pension	14 October 1910
Family allowance	1 July 1941
Widow's pension	30 June 1942
Funeral benefit	1 July 1943
Unemployment benefit	1 July 1945
Sickness benefit	1 July 1945
Special benefit	1 July 1945
Allowances associated with the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (including Rehabilitation allowance)	10 December 1948
Sheltered employment allowance	30 June 1967
Wife's pension (superseded wife's allowance)	5 October 1972
Supporting parent benefit	3 July 1973
Double orphans' pension	26 September 1973
Handicapped child's allowance	30 December 1974
Mobility allowance	1 April 1983
Family income supplement	1 May 1983
Spouse carer's pension	1 December 1983

Details of the respective rates of pensions and benefits and details of associated allowances available to certain recipients are shown, along with more specific eligibility criteria, in the Annual Report of the Department of Social Security.

Age and invalid pensions and associated payments

Age pensions are payable to men and women who have reached the ages of 65 and 60 respectively. They are generally subject to residence qualifications and an income test.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons between sixteen years of age and age pension age who are permanently incapacitated for work to the extent of at least 85 per cent, or permanently blind. Invalid pension is paid subject to an income test, except for pensions paid to the permanently blind.

A wife's pension is payable to the wife of a pensioner not entitled, in her own right, to an age, invalid or repatriation service pension. There is no residence qualification, but an income test applies.

A spouse carer's pension is payable to the husband of a pensioner who is providing constant care and attention at home for his wife, if he is not eligible for a pension in his own right.

Additional pension is payable for each dependent child under 16 years and dependent full-time students aged 16 to 24 years, subject to the income test. Widowed or other unmarried age or invalid pensioners with a dependent child may, in addition, receive a guardian's allowance. Supplementary assistance, subject to a special income test, is available to pensioners if they pay rent or pay for board or lodging. Remote area allowance is payable to pensioners living in income tax Zone A, except for those aged 70 years or more receiving the special rate of age pension.

AGE PENSIONERS: 30 JUNE

Age	1982	1983	1984
60-64 years	156,882	161,921	168,545
65-69 years	335,014	326,582	315,704
70-74 years	367,469	376,115	357,274
75 years and over	507,670	526,220	516,606
Total	1,367,035	1,390,838	1,358,129
Number of wife/spouse carer pensioners(a)	27,516	26,380	24,561
Total payments during year(b) \$'000	4,506,946	4,867,554	5,313,659

INVALID PENSIONERS: 30 JUNE

Age	1982	1983	1984
16-19 years	7,064	6,805	7,070
20-39 years	48,039	49,102	52,799
40-59 years	116,046	117,844	130,202
60 and over	45,500	46,538	50,503
Total	216,649	220,289	240,574
Number of wife/spous carer pensioners(a)	54,804	57,011	67,273
Total payments during year(b) \$'000	977,125	1,068,350	1,252,650

(a) Spouse carer pensioners are included from June 1984. (b) Includes allowances, supplementary assistance and wives pensions where applicable.

Sheltered employment allowance and associated payments

Sheltered employment allowance is payable to disabled people who are employed in approved sheltered workshops and are otherwise qualified to receive an invalid pension or would become so qualified if they ceased to be provided with sheltered employment. The allowance is subject to the same income test as applies to invalid pension and is paid at the same rate. It is payable in the form of a supplement to the sheltered employee's wages.

At 30 June 1984, 177 workshops were paying the allowance to 9,597 disabled employees. Expenditure during the year 1983-84 was \$45,933,000.

Widows' pensions and associated payments

There are three categories of widow pensioners:

Class 'A'. A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more qualifying children under the age of sixteen years or dependent full time student aged 16-24;

Class 'B'. A widow who, because she has no qualifying children or students in her custody, care and control, is not eligible for a Class 'A' widow's pension but is either at least 50 years of age or, after having reached the age of 45, has ceased to receive a Class 'A' pension by reason of ceasing to have the custody, care and control of a qualifying child or student; and

Class 'C'. A widow not eligible for Class 'A' or Class 'B' widow's pension, who is under 50 years of age and is in necessitous circumstances within 26 weeks of her husband's death.

A widow's pension is income tested and is not payable to a woman receiving an age or invalid pension, a supporting parent's benefit, an unemployment, sickness or special benefit, a sheltered employment allowance, or a war widow's pension.

In addition to the basic pension, a mother's/guardian's allowance and additional pension for each dependent child are payable in the case of a widow with children. Supplementary assistance is also available to widows if they pay rent or pay for board or lodging. Remote area allowance is payable to widows living in income tax Zone A.

WIDOW PENSIONERS, BY AGE: 30 JUNE

Age	1982	1983	1984
Class A widow pensioners aged—			
Under 20 years	96	96	47
20–29 years	13,610	11,883	10,127
30–39 years	36,607	37,082	35,616
40–49 years	23,952	24,807	25,496
50–59 years	10,352	10,211	9,719
60 years and over	183	182	171
Class B widow pensioners aged—			
45–49 years	3,203	3,282	3,608
50–54 years	19,146	19,609	20,023
55–59 years	38,633	38,898	39,404
60 years and over	18,176	18,437	18,720
Class C widow pensioners			
	133	119	114
Total	164,091	164,606	163,045
Total payments during year (a) \$'000	717,386	758,086	829,537

(a) Includes payment to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. It also includes supplementary assistance and allowances.

Supporting parent's benefit

Supporting parent's benefit was introduced in November 1977 to extend to supporting fathers the same benefit as had previously been available to supporting mothers through supporting mother's benefit. The benefit is available to sole parents who have custody, care and control of a child under 16 years or a dependent full-time student aged 16 to 24 years. It is subject to an income test.

SUPPORTING PARENTS, BY AGE AND TYPE: 30 JUNE

Age and type of beneficiary	1982	1983	1984
Age			
Under 20 years	9,741	9,787	9,647
20–29 years	60,904	66,501	70,794
30–39 years	38,197	45,623	51,786
40–49 years	12,227	14,907	17,468
50–59 years	2,752	3,255	3,706
60 years and over	121	153	188
Type of beneficiary			
Females—			
Unmarried mothers	38,622	41,654	42,994
Separated wives	64,222	73,801	83,305
Separated de facto wives	15,175	16,903	18,381
Males—			
Widowers	856	1,072	1,128
Divorcees	1,106	1,468	1,591
Separated husbands	2,670	3,757	4,438
Separated de facto husbands	1,129	1,431	1,609
Other	162	142	143
Number of beneficiaries	123,942	140,228	153,589
Total payments during year (a) \$'000	605,864	727,734	889,595

(a) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances.

Fringe benefits

The Commonwealth Government makes several non-cash 'fringe benefits' available to pensioners and recipients of supporting parent's and sickness benefits who are entitled to a Pensioner Health Benefits (PHB) card or a Health Benefits (HB) card and their dependants. The issue of these cards is subject to a special income test. These benefits include:

- a range of free pharmaceuticals;
- a one-third reduction in telephone rental (subject to the income of co-residents);
- reduced fares for Commonwealth Government railway and shipping services;
- postal redirection concessions; and
- free hearing aids services.

State Governments, local government authorities and private organisations also provide certain fringe benefits. The most valuable of these are reductions in local government rates and in public transport charges.

There were 1,717,851 pensioners with PHB (Pensioner Health Benefits) cards entitling them to Commonwealth pensioner fringe benefits at 30 June 1984.

Unemployment, and sickness and special benefits and associated payments

Unemployment and sickness benefits are paid to men over sixteen and under sixty-five years of age, and to women over sixteen and under sixty years of age, who are unemployed or temporarily incapacitated for work. They must have been living in Australia during the preceding twelve months or be likely to remain permanently in Australia. Both benefits are subject to an income test. A person cannot receive both benefits simultaneously, nor can a person receive either benefit at the same time as an invalid, widow's, service pension or supporting parent's benefit.

For unemployment benefit purposes, people must establish that they are unemployed, that their unemployment is not due to industrial action by themselves or by members of a union of which they are a member, that they are capable and willing to undertake suitable work, and that they have taken reasonable steps to obtain such work. Registration for employment with the Commonwealth Employment Service is necessary. For sickness benefit purposes, people must establish that they are temporarily incapacitated for work because of sickness or injury and that they have thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

All unemployment and sickness beneficiaries with dependent children are eligible for an additional benefit for each dependent child. After the benefit has been paid for six consecutive weeks a sickness beneficiary who is paying rent or is paying for board or lodging may be entitled to a supplementary allowance.

In the case of sickness benefit, any amount of compensation, damages or similar payment, or war disability pension, paid in respect of the same incapacity as that for which the benefit is claimed, is deducted from the benefit if it is paid in respect of the same period.

A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not eligible for any pension, and who, because of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or any other reason, is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself/herself and his/her dependants. Recipients of special benefits include, among others, unmarried women for a period before and after the birth of a child, persons caring for invalid parents or sick relatives/children, and persons ineligible for a pension because of lack of residence qualifications.

The benefit is designed to meet cases of special need and may also be paid as income support over a period if no other social security benefit is payable.

The rate paid may not exceed the rate of unemployment or sickness benefit which could be paid if the claimant were qualified to receive it.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS; YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

	1982	1983	1984
Unemployment beneficiaries:			
Number of benefits granted	(b)833,600	1,115,323	975,988
Number on benefit at end of year	390,664	635,002	584,506
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	(b)332,000	540,198	619,600
Sickness beneficiaries:			
Number of benefits granted	(b)154,600	156,632	142,179
Number on benefit at end of year	53,522	64,203	62,400
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	(b)48,600	57,684	63,200
Special benefit beneficiaries:			
Number of benefits granted	(b)69,700	70,074	95,700
Number on benefit at end of year	16,162	20,899	18,293
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	(b)18,100	20,110	19,100
Amount paid during year (a) \$'000:			
Unemployment	1,224,343	2,248,980	2,912,314
Sickness	225,053	270,776	335,882
Special benefit	74,107	89,167	92,782

(a) Includes additional benefits for children. (b) Estimated.

Family allowances

A family allowance is paid to a person caring for children under sixteen years or full-time students aged 16–24 years who are wholly or substantially dependent on that person. Family allowance is not paid for students receiving Tertiary Education Assistance or other related Commonwealth education allowances. Payment is usually made to the mother. Approved charitable, religious or government institutions are paid family allowances for children in their care.

Twelve months residence in Australia is required if the claimant and the child were not born here, but this requirement is waived if the Department of Social Security is satisfied that they intend to remain in Australia permanently. Under certain conditions, family allowance may be paid to Australians who are temporarily absent overseas.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES: 30 JUNE, 1984

Number of children and students in family	Number of families							Total(a)	
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.		A.C.T.
1	267,266	198,356	122,520	69,317	68,952	22,152	7,898	12,444	768 905
2	295,636	232,760	137,977	78,585	81,933	24,978	8,146	16,609	876,624
3	130,887	105,170	65,170	29,635	35,908	11,202	4,000	7,758	389,730
4	37,231	29,690	20,031	6,980	9,469	3,175	1,455	2,099	110,130
5	7,973	6,270	4,791	1,255	1,904	658	524	447	23,822
6	2,261	1,771	1,428	336	559	148	206	97	6,806
7	698	532	454	112	156	45	77	26	2,100
8	234	158	163	32	48	20	19	19	693
9	71	71	43	12	14	1	8	3	223
10 or more	42	35	24	4	8	1	2	3	119
Total	742,299	574,813	352,601	186,268	198,951	62,380	22,335	39,505	2,179,152
No. of children in approved institutions	4,483	2,060	2,551	349	970	124	75	32	10,644
Amount paid during year (\$'000)	537,777	401,531	249,228	137,940	136,955	42,820	(a)	(e)	1,506,318

(a) Expenditure for N.T. and A.C.T. included in expenditure for S.A. and N.S.W. respectively.

Family income supplement

Family income supplement is paid subject to an income test to low-income families with one or more children eligible for family allowances so long as they are not in receipt of any Commonwealth pension, benefit or allowance which provides additional payment for dependent children. The number of families in receipt of family income supplement at 30 June 1984 was 26,531. The amount paid during the year 1983–84 was \$36,129,000.

Handicapped child's allowance

Parents or guardians of a child under sixteen years or a dependent full-time student who is severely handicapped mentally and/or physically, is living in the family home, and needs constant care and attention, are entitled to a handicapped child's allowance. The allowance is not subject to an income test, but a residence qualification similar to that for family allowance applies. The allowance is also available to persons on low income who are caring for a substantially handicapped child and are suffering severe financial hardship as a result of expenditure associated with the child's disability. The number of handicapped child's allowances being paid at 30 June 1984 was 28,502. The total amount paid through these allowances during the year 1983–84 was \$27,661,000.

Allowances association with the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS)

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service assists people with a long-term disability who are within the broad working age group. It aims to help disabled people to reach their maximum physical, mental, social and vocational usefulness and to assist them to live as independently as possible. Towards this aim, it provides co-ordinated programs of treatment and training to meet the special needs of each disabled person. Responsibility for the delivery of these services rests with the residential and day-attendance rehabilitation centres, work adjustment centres, work preparation centres, and regional rehabilitation units.

Rehabilitation may also be made available to people aged 14 or 15 years who, without treatment or training, would be likely to qualify for invalid pension at age sixteen.

Since March 1983 persons undertaking a Commonwealth rehabilitation program and who would otherwise have been eligible for another pension or benefit were paid a rehabilitation allowance subject to an income test. Living-away-from-home allowance is paid where necessary. Fares and living expenses (including those of an attendant where required) in connection with treatment, training or attendance for an interview or for medical examination may also be paid. Necessary aids, appliances and

modifications may be provided free of charge to a person receiving treatment and training or who needs them to assist him or her to engage in a suitable vocation after the discontinuance of his treatment and training or who needs them otherwise to assist in his or her rehabilitation.

Treatment, training and assessment programs are undertaken at rehabilitation centres where occupational therapists, vocational counsellor, qualified tradesmen and teachers determine the skills which make best use of ability and which are best adapted to the person's needs. In addition to the services provided at each centre, technical schools, business colleges, universities, training on-the-job in commerce or industry and correspondence courses are all used for training purposes. In 1983-84, 7641 persons commenced rehabilitation.

Portability of social service payment

Age, invalid and widows' pensions and supporting parent's benefits continue in force for recipients who have left Australia unless they left before 8 May 1973 or their pension or benefit is subject to the provisions of either of the reciprocal agreements with New Zealand or the United Kingdom. In certain cases of hardship, the pension or benefit may continue for people who left before 8 May 1973. The number of Australian pensions being paid overseas under the general portability provisions at 30 June 1984, was 20,229.

Other services of the Department of Social Security

The Department of Social Security provides a professional social work service and Ethnic and Aboriginal Liaison Office Schemes. It administers grants to major national welfare organisations such as: Australian Council of Social Service, Australian Council on the Ageing, Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled, Australian Early Childhood Association and to non-government welfare agencies providing emergency relief or in financial difficulties.

To assist in its role of advising the government on welfare policy, the Department of Social Security initiates, develops and evaluates experimental projects in social welfare and undertakes research studies.

The Department supports the work of the Social Welfare Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and provides a grant to the Social Welfare Research Unit of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

Commonwealth Government assistance through welfare organisations

Accommodation for aged and disabled people

The *Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act 1954* is designed to encourage the provision of homes in which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching normal domestic life.

To be eligible for assistance under the Act an organisation must be:

- (i) carried on otherwise than for the purposes of profit or gain to the individual members; and
- (ii) a religious organisation, an organisation of which the principal objects or purposes are charitable or benevolent, an organisation of former members of the defence forces established in every State or a State branch of such an organisation, an organisation approved by the Governor-General for the purposes of the Act, or a local governing body.

An organisation conducted or controlled by, or by persons appointed by, the Commonwealth or any State Government is not eligible for assistance under the Act.

The Director-General of the Department of Social Security or his delegate may make a grant of money to an organisation as assistance towards meeting the cost of the construction or purchase of a home, including land, to be used permanently for the accommodation of aged persons.

The following table gives information regarding grants approved for each of the past three years. The amounts granted in each year include new grants approved in that year together with adjustments made during the year in respect of grants originally approved in earlier years.

AGED OR DISABLED PERSONS HOMES ACT: GRANTS AND AMOUNTS APPROVED AND BEDS PROVIDED

		1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Grants approved	No.	119	230	172
Amount approved	\$'000	28,715	54,455	43,709
Beds provided—				
Self-contained	No.	324	751	478
Hostel	"	691	1,400	1,219
Nursing	"	1,031	1,455	932
Total	"	2,046	3,606	2,629

The Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act also provides a *personal care subsidy* paid to eligible organisations for persons of eighty years of age or over and other persons requiring and receiving approved personal care while living in hostel-type accommodation provided by organisations eligible under the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act. The following table gives details of the premises approved, payments made and number of residents aged eighty years or over residing in the approved premises.

AGED OR DISABLED PERSONS HOMES ACT: PERSONAL CARE SUBSIDIES, 30 JUNE 1984

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Approved premises	No.	251	220	156	111	95	21	2	6	862
Residents qualifying	No.	6,137	3,730	2,940	2,025	1,479	392	28	106	16,837
Subsidies paid, 1983-84	\$'000	9,508	7,893	6,122	4,562	3,560	866	62	143	32,716

Handicapped people

Under the *Handicapped Persons Assistance Act 1974* eligible organisations may apply for subsidies towards the cost of providing capital projects, maintenance and equipment. Grants are also available in respect of rental and certain salary payments.

As well as assisting organisations with establishment and running costs, the legislation also provides financial encouragement to sheltered workshop administrations to provide the type of training for the handicapped which will prepare them, where possible, for open employment. A *training fee* is paid to organisations providing approved sheltered employment for each handicapped employee who graduates to open employment. A handicapped children's benefit is paid to organisations providing approved residential accommodation for handicapped children. During 1983-84 assistance was provided to 1,227 organisations at a total cost of \$77m.

Homeless people

The *Homeless Persons Assistance Act 1974* helps non-profit organisations and local governing bodies which provide accommodation, food and social welfare services for homeless men and women.

The Act enables grants to be made to eligible organisations to meet the cost of purchasing, constructing, altering or renting buildings to be used as homeless persons' assistance centres, as well as to meet the cost of purchasing furniture, furnishings and equipment for such centres. Grants also meet half the salary of a social welfare worker employed at a centre. The amount of grants made for these purposes during 1983-84 was \$8,751,351.

The *Delivered Meals Subsidy Act 1970* helps eligible organisations to establish, maintain, expand and improve 'meals on wheels' services. In 1983-84, 776 organisations had received a total subsidy of \$5,629,499 under the Act.

Children's Services

The Children's Services Program is administered by the Office of Child Care, within the Department of Social Security. It provides grants to State, and local governments and community organisations for a flexible network of services for children and their families mainly concentrating on day care and pre-school centres. The general principle guiding approval of grants is one of directing assistance on a needs basis.

Other services funded under the program include support services for families and adolescents, special services for migrants, Aborigines and disabled children and research, evaluation and information projects.

Two components of the Program which are administered jointly with State Governments have been identified as the Family Support Services and the Youth Services Schemes. While these are identified separately as schemes, they are an integral part of the Children's Services Program.

EXPENDITURE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAM
(\$'000)

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Pre-school	33,005	33,090	33,090
Other child care	47,355	64,954	80,125
Total	80,360	98,044	113,215

Aboriginals

A referendum in May 1967 led to the repeal of section 127 of the Constitution which provided that, in reckoning the numbers for census purposes, Aboriginals should not be counted, and to the deletion of the words 'other than the Aboriginal race in any State' from section 51 (xxvi) which relates to the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws in respect to people of any race. The Constitutional amendment, in effect, gave the Commonwealth Government shared power with the State Governments in relation to Aboriginals. The Commonwealth Government's aim is to help Aboriginals become self-managing and self-sufficient while, at the same time, preserving and developing their own distinctive culture. The Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs which is responsible for policy, planning and co-ordination in respect of Aboriginal affairs at the national level has regional offices in all States and the Northern Territory.

The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC), established in 1973, was replaced in 1977 by the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC) whose 36 members are elected by Aboriginals throughout Australia for three-year terms. Its role is to provide a forum in which Aboriginal views can be expressed at State and national level and, in particular, to express Aboriginal views on the long term goals and objectives which the Government should pursue, the programs it should adopt in Aboriginal affairs, and on the need for new programs in Aboriginal affairs.

From 1 July 1981, the NAC Executive assumed the advisory functions and powers of the former Council for Aboriginal Development.

The Aboriginal Development Commission (ADC), an all-Aboriginal Commission, was established in 1980 by the Commonwealth Government as an independent body. The ADC assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, communities and individuals to acquire land for a variety of purposes, engage in business enterprises, obtain finance for housing and other personal needs, and to receive training where necessary.

Migrants

Intake

The number of migrants who have come to Australia since the end of the Second World War has passed the 4 million mark. These migrants have contributed significantly to Australia's population which has more than doubled, from 7.4 million at the end of 1945 to 15.1 million at the end of 1981. At the time of the 1981 Census, almost 22 per cent of Australia's population was overseas born. Post-war immigration peaked in 1970 with 185,300 settler arrivals, declined thereafter to a low of 54,100 in 1975, increased again to 119,300 in 1981 and decreased to 79,400 in 1983.

Accommodation of migrants

Migrant Centres provide a residential base for the provision of programs and services for newly arrived refugees and some other migrants.

There are 14 Migrant Centres located in all States and the N.T. with a capacity to accommodate up to 10,000 migrants and refugees. Additionally, 378 migrant transitory flats can accommodate up to 1,900 persons at any time.

Due to a downturn in demand for migrant centre accommodation the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has closed 4 migrant centres, but two of these (Cabramatta and Fairy Meadow) continue to provide non-residential services such as English tuition and orientation classes.

Ethnic affairs—Services for migrants and refugees

The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs provides services to facilitate the successful settlement and welfare of migrants and refugees.

In addition, the Department is responsible, through its Ethnic Affairs Division, for advancing policies designed to secure the successful settlement and integration of migrants into Australian society. These policies include fostering the preservation and sharing of the cultural heritage of migrant communities, and maintenance of harmonious inter-group relations in Australia's multicultural society. The Department provides advice to a number of other departments whose responsibilities are particularly important within this context.

Departmental social workers and welfare officers provide information and advice, and, in more complex cases, professional counselling for migrants in their own language. They operate from the Regional Offices of the Department in the State capital cities with some outposted to migrant centres, voluntary welfare organisations and other centres in areas of high migrant density. They are also involved in community development work and provide consultancy services to other agencies assisting migrant settlement.

Departmental activities are complemented by those of social workers and welfare officers employed by voluntary agencies funded by Commonwealth grants administered by the Settlement Branch. In many respects these voluntary agencies are best placed to assist migrants. There has been an increase in the number of Grants-in-Aid for the employment of welfare workers by voluntary agencies from 140 to 201 in 1985-86.

The Department provides a free translation and interpreting service for migrants during the settlement period and offers a translation service to Commonwealth departments and other bodies for a fee. At the present time translation units are operating in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

In 1973 a Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) was introduced to help overcome communication problems by providing over the telephone, in a wide range of languages, a general interpreting, information and referral service for migrants and others having dealings with migrants. Where necessary and especially in emergency situations, arrangements may be made for the personal attendance of an interpreter. TIS currently operates in Canberra, all State capitals, Darwin and in a number of major provincial centres of migrant population. During the year ended 30 June 1984, a total of 300,000 calls was received by TIS.

Cost-sharing agreements have been concluded with the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia for the establishment or extension of State operated interpreting and translation services. A major new agreement for a Victoria legal interpreting service, involving a Commonwealth contribution of \$1m. over 3 years, was introduced in June 1984.

A National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) was established by the Commonwealth Government in 1977 to develop standards of competence for translators and interpreters in Australia and to test and accredit at those standards. State/Territory Panels for Translators and Interpreters have been established in all States and Territories to administer tests to those seeking accreditation. From 1 July 1983 it became an independent body funded mainly by the Commonwealth and States on a shared basis.

Twenty-three migrant resource centres and ten sub-centres have been established in areas of high migrant density. These resource centres provide support for all agencies (both government and voluntary) which assist migrants, and also provide a focus for community participation and development of local resources to meet migrant needs.

The settlement of refugees has become an important element in the Commonwealth Government's overall migrant settlement program. Most of these refugees are accommodated initially at Commonwealth Government migrant centres where they are able to participate in an initial settlement program designed to facilitate their settlement in the community. In addition, under the Community Refugees Settlement Scheme, numbers of refugees are moved directly from the refugee camps overseas into the Australian community where they are in the care of families, groups and organisations which have undertaken to provide a range of support and assistance.

The Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) provides a wide range of language learning opportunities, as well as offering information about Australia, its services and institutions. The Department is responsible for the funding and co-ordination of the program at the national level, while service delivery is provided in the main by Adult Migrant Education Services in each State and Territory.

In 1983-84 expenditure on the Adult Migrant Education Program was \$39m. New enrolments in the Program nationally totalled just over 120,000 persons including 17,000 in courses for new arrivals.

The status of 'Australian citizen' was created under the *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948* which came into force on 26 January 1949. The relevant Act is now the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* and under its provisions all new settlers regardless of origin, are required to satisfy uniform requirements for the grant of citizenship. A major review of the Act, which included public consultations in every State and Territory, has recently been completed. Amendments are expected to be introduced into Federal Parliament soon. In the financial year 1983-84, 113,810 applications for Australian citizenship were received compared with 101,287 in 1982-83. Over 1.6 million new settlers have been granted Australian citizenship since 1945.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act 1920*, 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 provision of benefits under the legislation. The Chairman of the Commission is also the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, 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 disability and dependants' pensions (previously called war pensions) and service pensions and allowances to eligible veterans and their dependants; the provision of medical treatment for veterans for injuries and illnesses accepted as service-related; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances for veterans who are suffering from injuries and illnesses whether service-related or not; the provision of medical treatment for war/ defence widows and certain dependants of deceased veterans; and provision of a wide range of other benefits for eligible persons. Since 5 October 1976, the *Defence Service Homes Act 1918* has been administered by the Defence Service Homes Corporation (DSHC) within the departmental framework. At the same time, the Department was given responsibility for the Office of Australian War Graves.

Repatriation 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, in the Korea and Malaya operations, in prescribed areas with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (F.E.S.R.) and the Special Overseas Forces and, in certain circumstances, in the Regular Defence Forces or peacekeeping forces.

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

VETERANS' AFFAIRS (excl. DSHC): TOTAL EXPENDITURE(a)
(S'000)

Class	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	860,229	966,072	1,193,181	1,329,871	1,719,058	2,035,026
Medical treatment	268,539	310,327	357,219	426,360	499,005	561,035
Administration	44,441	49,539	52,885	63,996	69,556	84,848
Works, rent and maintenance	21,301	27,881	24,587	22,136	26,968	43,021
Total expenditure	1,194,511	1,353,819	1,627,872	1,842,363	2,314,597	2,723,930

(a) Includes expenditure by Departments other than Veterans' Affairs as follows: 1978-79, \$18,819,531; 1979-80, \$25,072,835; 1980-81, \$21,270,359; 1981-82, \$18,260,360; 1982-83, \$22,738,924; 1983-84, \$27,541,925.

Disability pensions

The first provision for the payment of disability pensions to veterans and pensions to 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.

Main pension rates vary twice each year; current rates are available from Department of Veterans' Affairs Branch Offices.

Summary of disability pensions

The following table provides a summary of disability pensions according to the veteran's war/area of service. Statistics relating to miscellaneous disability pensions are included collectively in each table, with further details being provided later in this section.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: 1983-84

		1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.	Special Overseas Service	Peace time forces	Miscel- laneous	Total
Pensions in force at 30 June 1984								
(b)	No.	25,271	336,509	9,173	23,268	12,849	207	407,277
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1984	\$'000	74,158	575,006	10,434	10,789	6,125	436	676,948
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1983-84	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	722,660
New claims granted	No.	199	8,735	316	1,275	2,585	9	13,119
Restorations	"	10	559	68	129	113	—	879
Pensions cancelled (gross)	"	88	3,614	319	553	368	5	4,947
Deaths of pensioners	"	2,834	8,825	106	44	22	11	11,842

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Includes 3,081 student children over 16 years of age.

Classes of disability pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the number of pensions in force, veteran's class of pension, new claims and deaths for 1983-84.

DISABILITY PENSIONS IN FORCE: 30 JUNE 1984

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Peace time forces</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total (b)</i>
Veterans	3,417	146,296	4,011	7,479	4,792	67	166,062
Wives and wives (widows)	9,777	138,363	3,218	5,703	3,421	72	160,554
Children (b)	6	6,746	1,376	9,551	4,348	4	22,031
War widows	11,807	42,570	426	222	146	62	55,233
Children of deceased veterans	2	486	73	214	137	-	912
Orphans	-	43	2	6	3	-	54
Other dependants	262	2,005	67	93	2	2	2,431
Total	25,271	336,509	9,173	23,268	12,849	207	407,277

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Includes 3,797 student children over 16 years of age.

**DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED VETERANS IN FORCE: BY CLASS OF PENSION
30 JUNE 1984**

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Peace time forces</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
Special Rate (T & P I) or equivalent	866	18,609	333	225	86	6	20,125
Intermediate Rate	21	1,074	25	15	7	-	1,142
General Rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability	2,530	126,613	3,653	7,239	4,699	61	144,795
Total	3,417	146,296	4,011	7,479	4,792	67	166,062

(a) Includes Interim Forces

Summary of disability pensions, 1978-79 to 1983-84

The following table shows the number of pensions granted, pensions in force and the expenditure for disability pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1979 to 1984.

DISABILITY PENSIONS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of disability pensions in force at 30 June(a)</i>						<i>Annual expenditure(b) (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Pensions granted</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Incapaci- tated veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of incapac- tated veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased veterans</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1978-79	7,257	11,500	182,988	212,177	53,136	448,301	415,329
1979-80	6,141	11,151	178,471	204,265	52,031	434,767	432,001
1980-81	6,732	11,680	174,278	197,603	51,453	423,334	496,310
1981-82	7,325	11,648	170,546	190,970	51,614	413,130	510,675
1982-83	13,420	11,815	168,355	186,859	55,259	410,473	646,470
1983-84	13,119	11,842	166,062	183,105	58,110	407,277	722,660

(a) Includes Interim Forces 1939-45 War. (b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

Miscellaneous disability 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*, the *Papua New Guinea (Members of the Forces Benefits) Act 1957* 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 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS, 30 JUNE 1984

Class	<i>Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1984</i>			Total
	<i>Veterans(a)</i>	<i>Dependants of incapacitated veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased veterans</i>	
Seamen's war pension	66	76	35	177
New Guinea civilians	1	..	29	30
Total	67	76	64	207

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

Service pensions

The *Repatriation Act 1920* provides for a service pension to be paid (subject to an income test unless the person is blind) to the following persons:

- male veterans 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;
- female veterans 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;
- veterans of other British Commonwealth Forces who served outside the country of enlistment or within that country if a campaign medal has been awarded in respect of such service. Ten years residence in Australia is a necessary qualification;
- veterans who served in formally raised allied forces in conflicts in which Australia participated, who served in a theatre of war and at no time served in enemy forces. Ten years residence in Australia is also necessary.

British Commonwealth and Allied mariners who served in a theatre of war in the 1939-45 war and who satisfied the ten year residency requirement are eligible as from 3 February 1983.

A veteran in receipt of a service pension is entitled, subject to an income test, 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.

Main pension rates vary twice each year; current rates are available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Branch Offices.

The following table provides a summary of Service Pensions according to the veteran's war/area of service.

SERVICE PENSIONS 1983-84

		<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War</i>	<i>Korea- Malaya operations</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>British Common- wealth</i>	<i>Allied Forces</i>	<i>Miscel- aneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
New claims granted	No.	193	40,700	653	340	7,714	1,244	986	51,830
Restorations	"	30	215	5	4	21	4	5	284
Cancellations (gross)	"	205	5,175	74	25	577	74	38	6,168
Deaths	"	1,194	8,022	81	14	463	64	28	9,866
Pensions in force at 30 June 1984	"	7,084	322,074	2,524	856	36,099	5,347	1,521	375,505
Annual liability at 30 June 1984	\$'000	24,994	932,622	9,381	3,096	130,245	18,581	5,498	1,124,417
Amount paid in pen- sions during 1983-84	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,294,279

Class of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of pensions in force, new claims granted and deaths for 1983-84.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, 30 JUNE 1984

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War</i>	<i>Korea- Malaya operations</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>British Common- wealth</i>	<i>Allied Forces</i>	<i>Miscell- aneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
Veterans—								
old age	4,484	152,768	578	65	18,384	2,744	742	179,765
permanently unemployable	534	33,586	980	440	2,086	238	136	38,000
Tuberculosis(a)	11	861	13	1	9	—	—	895
Total	5,029	187,215	1,571	506	20,479	2,982	878	218,660
Wives and widows	2,055	134,859	953	350	15,620	2,365	643	156,845
Total	7,084	322,074	2,524	856	36,099	5,347	1,521	375,505

(a) Eligibility on these grounds ceased on 2 November 1978.

The following table provides a summary of Service Pensions.

SERVICE PENSIONS

	<i>Pensions in force</i>					<i>Annual expenditure (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Pensions granted</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Veterans</i>	<i>Depend- ants</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1978-79	36,607	7,827	131,792	80,630	212,422	436,196
1979-80	40,735	7,952	146,370	93,594	239,964	525,178
1980-81	46,189	8,966	163,237	108,841	272,078	686,487
1981-82	42,766	8,894	178,064	121,838	299,902	807,537
1982-83	57,012	9,604	200,492	140,656	341,148	1,057,950
1983-84	51,830	9,866	218,660	156,845	375,505	1,294,279

Medical treatment for veterans and dependants of veterans

Medical treatment is provided for all disabilities which have been accepted as service-related, and for pulmonary tuberculosis and cancer not related to service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is provided for most non-service-related disabilities for: incapacitated veterans receiving disability pensions at or above the maximum (100 per cent) General Rate; 1939-45 War veterans receiving both service pension at any rate and disability pension at the 50 per cent rate or higher; veterans or nurses who served in the 1914-18 War; veterans of the Boer War; ex-prisoners-of-war; war widows and certain other dependants of deceased male veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related, and of deceased Special Rate pensioners; and certain service pensioners.

Treatment is provided at six Repatriation general hospitals (one in each State) and three auxiliary hospitals and an ANZAC hostel in Victoria. The total number of available beds for patients in wards or parts of wards open for use in all these institutions at 30 June 1984 was 2,735 and expenditure during 1983-84 amounted to \$214,847,376. In addition, expenditure of \$346,160,742 was incurred during 1983-84 on medical services outside these institutions.

Community patients

Where spare bed capacity exists in the Repatriation hospitals, patients may be admitted from the general community to a level not exceeding 20 per cent of the total occupied beds of the hospital over a period of time.

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 OPERATIVE STAFF 30 JUNE 1984

<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>A.C.T.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
General hospitals	2,452	1,586	1,165	775	855	217	—	—	7,050
Other in-patient insti- tutions	272	133	80	—	—	—	—	—	485
Limb and appliance centres	64	73	29	21	15	12	—	1	215
Total	2,788	1,792	1,274	796	870	229	—	1	7,750

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, 1983-84

	<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>
REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year . . .	658	450	385	255	302	92	2,142
Admissions and re-admissions during year	19,050	15,569	11,034	7,282	9,555	2,325	64,815
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>19,708</i>	<i>16,019</i>	<i>11,419</i>	<i>7,537</i>	<i>9,857</i>	<i>2,417</i>	<i>66,957</i>
Discharges	18,355	15,044	10,657	7,050	9,244	2,236	62,586
Deaths	782	614	442	280	331	110	2,559
In-patients at end of year	571	361	320	207	282	71	1,812
Average daily beds occupied	608	417	354	222	280	74	1,955
REPATRIATION AUXILIARY HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year . . .	172	131	59	—	—	—	362
Admissions and re-admissions during year	1,794	648	543	—	—	—	2,940
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>1,921</i>	<i>779</i>	<i>602</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>3,302</i>
Discharges	1,681	579	486	—	—	—	2,746
Deaths	75	74	61	—	—	—	210
In-patients at end of year	165	126	55	—	—	—	346
Average daily beds occupied	155	120	54	—	—	—	329

In addition to the repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at departmental expense. During 1983-84, 47,571 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in country and metropolitan hospitals and 6,652 in nursing homes.

Repatriation psychiatric patients requiring custodial care are, by agreement with the State Governments, accommodated at the expense of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in separate wings of psychiatric hospitals administered by the State authorities. Excluding 34 on trial leave, there were 433 repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1984.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout Australia at repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1983-84, 788,647 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and local medical officers consultations totalled 2,892,298. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in Australia at 30 June 1984 was 11,247.

Artificial limb and appliance services

A wide range of artificial limbs and other surgical aids is supplied by the artificial limb and appliance centre in each State capital and Darwin. In addition, the Department maintains the Central Development Unit located in Melbourne, and engages in research and development in the prosthetic and orthotic field.

Since 1973, artificial limbs have been provided free of charge to all members of the community who need them (except where patients are eligible for compensation), either through the Department's artificial limb and appliance centres or on order through commercial limb-makers. The number of limbs supplied through the Department has increased significantly as the community has taken advantage of the free-limbs scheme.

Details of production at all centres during 1983-84 are as follows: arms, 181; legs, 2,238; surgical and adapted footwear, 6,721; other surgical appliances, 977; and repairs, 25,974. In addition the Department purchased from commercial manufacturers 2,429 legs, 180 arms and 7,136 limb repairs.

General Repatriation benefits and miscellaneous

Other activities of Department of Veterans' Affairs

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 veterans and their dependants. These include the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.

In addition, gift cars and an annual allowance for their upkeep are provided for veterans 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 \$550 may be made towards the funeral expenses of eligible veterans and certain of their dependants. As from 13 November 1980, Temporary Incapacity Allowance may be paid to a veteran whose stay in hospital together with post-hospital convalescence or other treatment on a full-time basis exceeds 28 days. Payment of up to \$10 may be made to provide such necessities as meals, sleeping accommodation, etc., for veterans in need of immediate relief. Also, certain concessions in telephone rental charges are provided for some classes of veterans and their dependants, including blinded veterans, war and defence widows and certain service and Special Rate disability pensioners. Veterans who have been blinded as a result of service may be issued with talking book machines. The Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind supplies 'book' records or cassettes for these machines free of charge, thus enabling the blind to enjoy a wide range of literature.

Expenditure in 1983-84 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$18,087,000 comprising Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, \$3,108,000; recreation transport allowance, \$1,568,000; and other benefits, \$10,814,000.

As at 30 June 1982, trust and other funds administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs held \$56,000 in securities (face value) and \$1,287,000 in cash, a total of \$1,343,000.

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

Soldiers' Children Education Scheme

The Soldiers' Children Education Scheme was established in 1921 and operates to assist and encourage eligible children in acquiring a standard of education compatible with their aptitude and ability. Children of veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related; or of veterans who died from causes not service-related but who were receiving at the date of death a disability pension at a Special Rate for blindness, total and permanent incapacity, or amputation of two or more limbs; or of veterans who, as a result of service, are blinded totally and permanently incapacitated; or of deceased veterans who served in a theatre of war if the child is not being cared for by the other parent are eligible. From the commencement of primary education until the child reaches twelve years of age, school requisites and fares are provided. From the commencement of secondary education or from the age of twelve years, whichever is earlier, an education allowance is payable while the child is undertaking primary or secondary education or a course of specialised education or training necessary for a career.

All education allowances are subject to an income test, i.e. the amount of education allowance payable depends on the amount of income a child receives over the allowed limit. Weekly rates of allowances vary from time to time; current rates are available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Branch Offices.

The following tables show the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30 June 1984, and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1984.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1983-84

(\$'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	3.9	3.3	5.5	3.4	2.6	1.0	19.7
12 years of age and over	1,173.7	779.2	521.6	270.9	188.3	133.9	3,067.6
Total expenditure	1,177.6	782.5	527.1	274.3	190.9	134.9	(c)3,087.3

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$20,200.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS AT 30 JUNE 1984

<i>Type of training</i>	<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>Over-seas</i>	<i>Total</i>
At school—								
Primary (c)	142	89	170	40	37	37	—	515
Secondary	486	268	277	122	79	97	8	1,337
<i>Total at school</i>	<i>628</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1,852</i>
Tertiary/professional	246	159	99	62	51	24	5	646
Technical	31	59	15	—	—	6	—	111
Industrial	22	3	9	22	1	6	—	69
<i>Grand total</i>	<i>927</i>	<i>578</i>	<i>570</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2,678</i>

(a) Includes A.C.T. (b) Includes N.T. (c) Not in receipt of an education allowance.

Re-establishment benefits for former regular servicemen

Subject to prescribed conditions, vocational training and business loans are provided for former regular servicemen with a view to ensuring that they are not at a disadvantage when they return to civil life. Loans up to \$5,000 (business and professional) and \$10,000 (agricultural) may be granted to veterans in these categories who satisfy prescribed requirements in respect of suitability of their proposed business propositions and adequacy of security. Agricultural and business loans are administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Vocational training is provided for by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

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 1983 was \$11,088,710. 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 veterans, and that the balance of the Fund should be used to provide relief for veterans and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by seven 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 various schemes for providing financial assistance to needy eligible veterans and their dependants. The total cash assistance granted to individuals under all schemes from the inception of the Fund to 31 December 1983 was \$17,698,448 (\$506,695 during 1983) distributed as follows:

- welfare relief, \$6,308,827 (\$306,055 during 1983)
- children's education, \$10,998,920 (\$200,640 during 1983)
- other schemes, \$390,977 (\$335 during 1983)

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

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

Surveys of incomes have been conducted by the ABS at irregular intervals. In the last such survey, conducted in the period September to November 1982, income was collected both on a last financial year basis, that is in respect of 1981-82, and on a current basis, that is at the time of interview.

As has been customary in such surveys, income was collected in respect of each of the following sources: wages or salaries; own business, trade or profession; government cash benefits; superannuation; interest, rent dividends; other sources. These were then aggregated to arrive at total income.

The survey was designed to enable the production of estimates both for individuals and for groups of individuals such as income units, families and households. Summary results have been released in the following ABS publications: *Income of Individuals, Australia, 1981-82 (6502.0)*; *Income of Income Units, Australia 1981-82 (6523.0)*. Details of concepts, definitions, etc employed in the survey and observations on the quality and reliability of the data can be found in these publications.

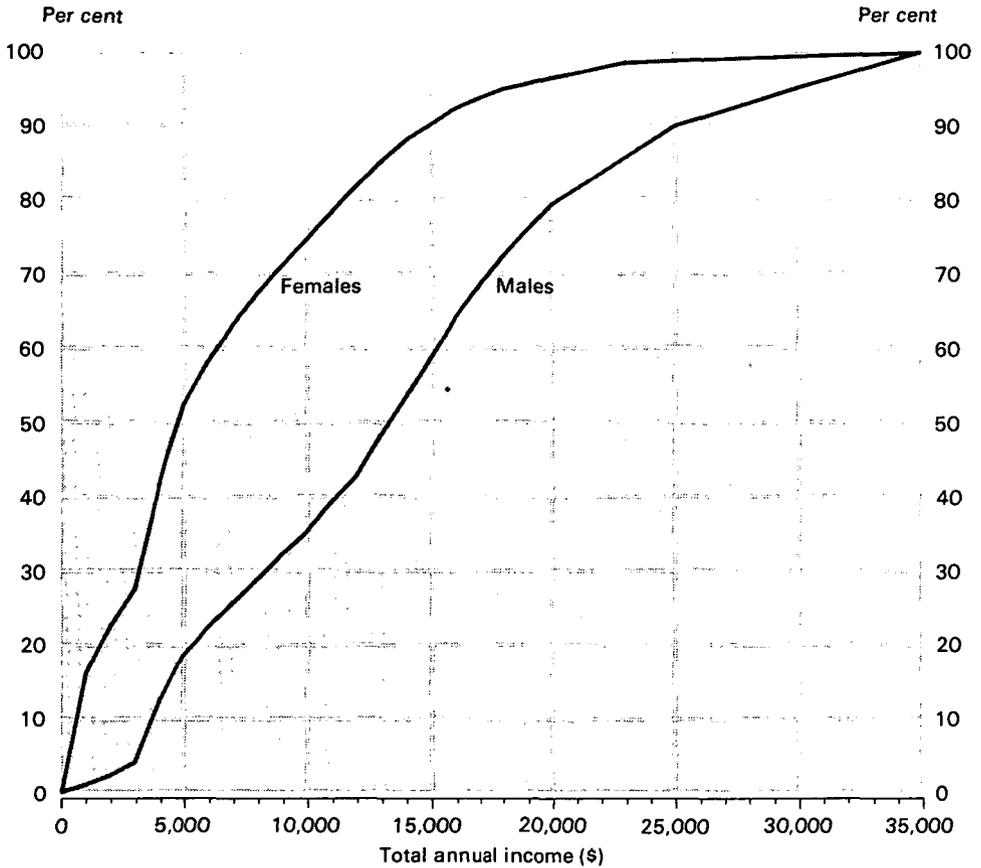
ALL INCOME RECIPIENTS: DECILE CLASSES, INCOME SHARE AND MEAN ANNUAL INCOME, AUSTRALIA, 1978-79, 1981-82

Decile class	Males		Females		Persons			
	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)	Income share (per cent)		Mean annual income (\$)	
					1978-79	1981-82	1978-79	1981-82
Lowest	1.8	2,500	0.4	300	0.5	0.5	390	600
2nd	3.0	4,300	1.3	900	2.2	2.4	1,610	2,600
3rd	4.7	6,700	3.6	2,400	3.6	3.6	2,680	3,800
4th	6.9	9,700	5.3	3,500	4.8	4.7	3,540	5,000
5th	8.7	12,200	6.2	4,200	7.0	6.9	5,230	7,200
6th	10.1	14,200	8.0	5,400	9.8	9.5	7,300	10,000
7th	11.5	16,200	11.0	7,400	12.2	12.0	9,080	12,600
8th	13.3	18,700	14.9	10,000	14.5	14.5	10,790	15,100
9th	15.7	22,100	19.2	12,900	17.7	17.8	13,190	18,700
Highest	24.4	34,300	30.1	20,300	27.8	28.1	20,700	29,400
Median annual income (\$)		13,200		4,600			6,300	8,500
Mean annual income (\$)		14,100		6,700			7,500	10,500
Numbers ('000)		5066.4		4858.6			9590.4	9925.1

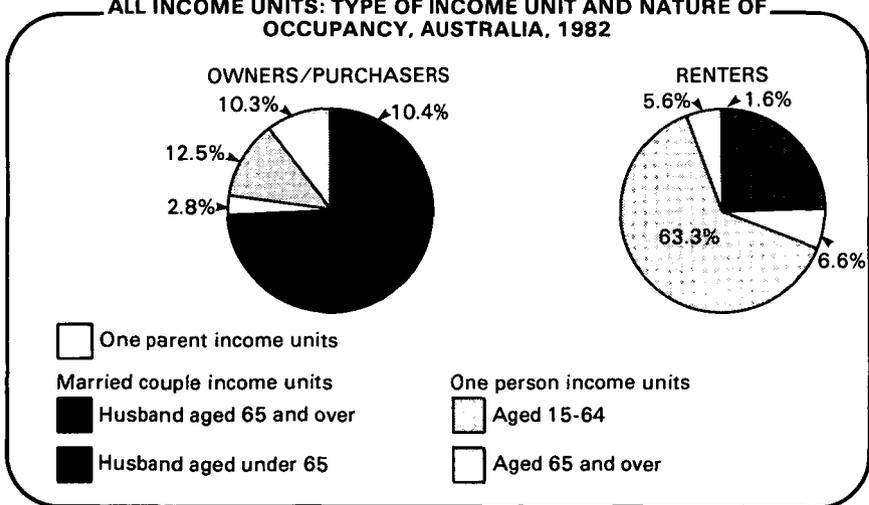
ALL INCOME UNITS: DECILE CLASSES, TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, INCOME SHARE AND MEAN ANNUAL INCOME, AUSTRALIA 1981-82

Decile class	Married couple income units								All income units			
	With no dependent children		With dependent children		One parent income units		One person income units		1981-82		1978-79	
	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)	Income share (per cent)	Mean annual income (\$)
Lowest	2.6	5,000	2.8	6,500	2.6	2,300	2.0	1,900	1.7	2,700	1.7	2,000
2nd	3.6	6,800	5.3	12,100	4.8	4,300	3.9	3,700	2.9	4,500	2.9	3,300
3rd	4.3	8,100	6.6	15,000	5.7	5,100	4.4	4,200	4.2	6,500	4.2	4,800
4th	5.7	10,800	7.6	17,400	6.2	5,500	5.3	5,100	5.6	8,700	5.8	6,600
5th	7.6	14,300	8.6	19,600	6.9	6,100	7.2	6,800	7.4	11,500	7.6	8,600
6th	9.5	17,900	9.6	21,900	7.9	7,000	9.4	8,900	9.2	14,200	9.3	10,500
7th	11.5	21,700	10.8	24,800	10.0	8,900	11.7	11,100	11.2	17,300	11.3	12,700
8th	13.8	26,000	12.3	28,200	13.0	11,600	13.9	13,200	13.6	21,100	13.8	15,600
9th	16.5	31,100	14.5	33,300	17.0	15,200	16.7	15,900	17.2	26,600	17.0	19,300
Highest	25.0	47,200	22.0	50,500	25.8	22,900	25.4	24,200	27.0	41,700	26.4	29,800
Median annual income (\$)		16,000		20,700		6,500		7,800		12,900		9,600
Mean annual income (\$)		18,900		22,900		8,900		9,500		15,500		11,300
Numbers ('000)		1,439.8		1,956.1		275.2		2,962.2		6,633.4		6,325.9

CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF INCOME RECIPIENTS AT EACH LEVEL OF INCOME, AUSTRALIA, 1982



ALL INCOME UNITS: TYPE OF INCOME UNIT AND NATURE OF OCCUPANCY, AUSTRALIA, 1982



SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

ALL INCOME UNITS: TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME UNIT, TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN, AUSTRALIA 1981-82

Total annual income (\$)	Married couple income units					One parent income units				
	No dependent children	One dependent child	Two dependent children	Three or more dependent children	Total married couple income unit	One dependent child	Two or more dependent children	Total one parent income units	One person income units	All income units
	Numbers ('000)									
Under 1,000	9.4	3.2	8.5	4.4	25.6	3.0	3.6	4.7	76.7	107.0
1,000 - 1,999	3.8	*	3.8	5.2	15.0	3.5	3.6	5.4	48.7	69.0
2,000 - 2,999	5.5	*	4.0	*	11.9	5.3	3.7	6.4	80.7	99.0
3,000 - 3,499	8.6	*	*	3.1	12.2	8.2	5.7	8.9	132.6	151.6
3,500 - 3,999	8.7	*	*	*	11.1	10.7	5.3	16.4	273.2	293.2
4,000 - 4,499	9.7	3.9	3.3	*	14.2	10.8	6.9	16.1	285.9	314.7
4,500 - 4,999	9.0	*	*	*	13.0	27.3	8.0	34.2	131.5	161.9
5,000 - 5,499	8.1	*	*	*	14.7	8.0	11.7	19.7	97.0	144.2
5,500 - 5,999	8.8	*	4.3	5.8	107.0	7.8	13.6	21.4	76.1	110.6
6,000 - 6,499	80.9	5.8	5.4	*	79.1	*	10.8	12.6	71.7	185.3
6,500 - 6,999	91.7	8.2	12.5	3.8	70.6	3.1	4.8	6.2	62.6	139.4
7,000 - 7,499	59.1	7.3	9.7	4.6	66.1	3.4	4.6	6.7	76.8	149.6
7,500 - 7,999	47.0	7.3	5.3	6.9	46.4	3.4	5.5	6.9	61.2	114.5
8,000 - 8,499	49.3	*	7.3	6.3	46.5	3.3	4.3	7.7	65.3	119.5
8,500 - 8,999	31.5	8.9	9.6	9.6	32.1	*	*	4.8	60.3	97.2
9,000 - 9,499	23.9	2.9	17.1	12.7	84.8	4.7	3.8	8.6	135.6	229.0
10,000 - 10,999	41.4	13.6	17.2	13.4	77.8	5.8	*	9.0	138.0	224.0
11,000 - 11,999	33.4	13.8	17.2	14.9	93.7	6.5	*	6.8	156.5	259.2
12,000 - 12,999	41.5	17.3	20.0	19.1	110.5	3.7	3.1	6.8	128.5	245.8
13,000 - 13,999	41.7	24.1	25.6	19.2	120.3	3.9	3.2	6.8	109.0	236.1
14,000 - 14,999	42.7	26.6	31.8	20.0	127.1	3.6	3.2	6.8	106.2	240.1
15,000 - 15,999	43.0	25.5	38.6	22.3	119.9	*	*	5.7	75.2	200.8
16,000 - 16,999	34.9	21.6	41.0	19.9	126.0	3.0	*	5.4	53.3	184.6
17,000 - 17,999	42.8	20.1	43.1	28.6	139.0	3.6	*	4.3	54.7	198.0
18,000 - 18,999	46.8	28.7	34.9	21.7	118.4	4.7	6.8	11.5	40.6	160.9
19,000 - 19,999	36.1	25.3	35.3	104.6	537.4	4.0	2.5	5.0	118.7	667.6
20,000 - 24,999	170.8	93.7	168.3	74.7	420.7	4.0	*	*	48.1	473.9
25,000 - 29,999	151.8	83.5	110.6	42.9	265.2	*	*	*	17.3	284.0
30,000 - 34,999	96.1	54.9	71.4	68.4	385.2	*	*	*	19.0	405.0
35,000 - and over	144.7	77.7	94.3	538.7	3,395.9	150.4	124.8	275.2	2,962.2	6,633.4
Total	1,439.8	594.4	822.9	538.7	3,395.9	150.4	124.8	275.2	2,962.2	6,633.4

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

ALL INCOME UNITS: INCOME UNIT TYPE, NATURE OF OCCUPANCY AND CURRENT MEAN WEEKLY INCOME, AUSTRALIA 1982

Income unit type	Owners/purchasers			Renters					Living rent-free	Total
	Owners	Purchasers	Total	Government landlord	Private landlords	Other landlords	All renters			
	NUMBERS ('000)									
Married couple income units—										
Husband aged 65 years and over	351.4	32.2	383.6	18.8	15.6	6.0	40.3	15.3	439.2	
Husband aged under 65 years—										
With no dependent children	450.8	378.6	829.4	30.0	143.2	30.6	203.9	33.6	1,066.9	
With dependent children	462.2	1,069.9	1,532.0	89.7	221.7	75.3	386.7	56.4	1,975.1	
One parent income units—										
Male	6.1	12.5	18.6	3.2	5.6	4.1	12.9	2.3	33.8	
Female	36.3	48.4	84.7	46.8	72.1	37.1	156.0	21.1	261.8	
One person income units—										
Aged 1.5–24 years	5.8	14.1	20.0	4.3	270.6	753.4	1,028.3	330.3	1,378.5	
25–64 years	249.3	192.3	441.6	32.5	323.6	239.8	595.9	160.0	1,197.5	
65 years and over	359.0	21.0	380.0	43.4	41.5	58.8	143.7	76.6	600.3	
All income units	1,920.9	1,769.0	3,689.9	268.7	1,094.0	1,205.0	2,567.7	695.5	6,953.1	
	MEAN WEEKLY INCOME (\$)									
Married couple income units—										
Husband aged 65 years and over	217	195	216	140	143	172	146	193	208	
Husband aged under 65 years—										
With no dependent children	386	506	441	315	443	525	437	374	438	
With dependent children	465	485	479	335	380	453	384	368	457	
One parent income units—										
Male	288	359	336	204	244	272	243	300	298	
Female	200	209	205	140	157	144	149	132	166	
One person income units—										
Aged 1.5–24 years	224	302	279	124	206	178	185	127	173	
25–64 years	193	312	245	138	255	247	246	228	243	
65 years and over	116	133	117	90	111	95	98	101	111	
All income units	294	451	370	217	279	213	242	181	303	

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