

# Relief Division

c. 1953 – 1980?

## Details

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The Relief Division of the Social Services Department, and the Social Welfare Department that succeeded it, was established in the early 1950s. It provided financial and other assistance to people without enough money to meet everyday expenses. Family welfare work often involved both the Relief and the Child Welfare Divisions. After the early 1980s, the approach to relief changed and this category was no longer used.

The Relief Division gave financial assistance to deserted wives, single mothers, and wives of prisoners if they had dependent children. The women initially received a special grant but once they had taken 'reasonable' action to recover maintenance from the children's fathers, the Division paid them a regular allowance at the same rate as the Commonwealth widow's pension. After six months, they became eligible for the Commonwealth pension.

The Relief Division also paid funeral, transport, and removal expenses. It paid for artificial limbs or glasses and other similar necessities.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Organisations

- [Social Services Department, State of Tasmania \(1934 - 1961\)](#)  
The Relief Division was part of the Social Services Department.
- [Social Welfare Department, State of Tasmania \(1961 - 1983\)](#)  
The Relief Division was part of the Social Welfare Department.
- [Child Welfare Division \(c. 1953 - 1980\)](#)  
Families often required help from both the Relief and Child Welfare Divisions.

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