

(b) a person engaged in sea-going service on a merchant vessel, whose ordinary place of residence is in Australia and who is a British subject not under the age of twenty-one years and not subject to any of the disqualifications set out in section thirty-nine of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918-1940* and who is outside Australia or in Australia north of the twenty-sixth parallel of South Latitude may, at any place where arrangements have been made for members of the Forces to record their votes, vote in accordance with the provisions of this Act, in so far as those provisions are applicable, as if he were a member of the Forces :

Provided that, in the case of a person referred to in paragraph (a) of this section, the functions of a commanding officer and of a commissioned officer as set out in Part II. of this Act may be performed respectively by the commanding officer and the commissioned officers designated by the commanding officer of the unit which that person is accompanying or with which he is associated for the time being :

Provided also that, in the case of a person engaged in sea-going service on a merchant vessel, the functions of a commanding officer and of a commissioned officer as set out in Part II. of this Act may be performed respectively by the captain or other person in charge of the vessel and by any person designated by him.”.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

No. 15 of 1944.

An Act to amend the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942-1943*.

[Assented to 6th April, 1944.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows :—

1.—(1.) This Act may be cited as the *Widows' Pensions Act 1944*.

(2.) The *Widows' Pensions Act 1942-1943** is in this Act referred to as the Principal Act.

(3.) The Principal Act, as amended by this Act, may be cited as the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942-1944*.

Short title
and citation.

2. This Act shall come into operation on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Rate of
pension.

3. Section fifteen of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) by omitting from paragraph (a) of sub-section (1.) the words “Seventy-eight pounds” and inserting in their stead the words “Eighty-three pounds four shillings”;

* Act No. 19, 1942, as amended by No. 15, 1943.

(b) by omitting from paragraph (b) of sub-section (1.) the words "Sixty-five pounds" and inserting in their stead the words "Seventy pounds four shillings".

4. Section twenty-two of the Principal Act is amended by omitting the words "subject to this Act, be entitled to receive a pension at a rate determined in accordance with this Act, but not in any case exceeding Twenty-two pounds two shillings" and inserting in their stead the words "be entitled to receive a pension at a rate determined in accordance with this Act, but not in any case exceeding Twenty-four pounds fourteen shillings".

Benevolent
asylum
inmates.

5. Section twenty-six of the Principal Act is amended—

- (a) by inserting after the word "husband" (first occurring) the words "or within twenty-six weeks thereafter";
- (b) by inserting after the word "female" (second occurring) the words "or within twenty-six weeks thereafter";
- (c) by omitting the word "Twenty-five" and inserting in its stead the word "Twenty-seven"; and
- (d) by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:—
 " (2.) An allowance under this section shall not be payable to any person in respect of any period in respect of which a pension has been paid to that person."

Allowances to
certain widows.

6. Section thirty of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:—

Provisions
as to payments
of allowances.

" (4.) Where a claim is made after the expiration of three months from the date of the death of the claimant's husband or, where the claimant is a dependant female, after the expiration of three months from the date of the death of the man in respect of whom she was a dependant female, an allowance may be paid from the date on which she became qualified to receive an allowance, provided a claim is made within three months after that date."

7. Sections thirty-five and thirty-six of the Principal Act are repealed.

Variation and
adjustment of
pensions and
allowances in
accordance with
price index numbers.

8. Section forty-one of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:—

" (2.) Where, in any such case, the person imprisoned has a child dependent on her, the Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner may authorize the payment of the whole or any portion of any instalment of pension or allowance falling due during the period of imprisonment to some person approved by the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner for the benefit of the child."

Suspension
of pension or
allowance while
recipient
imprisoned.

9. Section forty-two of the Principal Act is repealed.

Cancellation
of pension on
conviction of
pensioner.
Application of
amendments

10. The amendments effected by sections three and four, and by paragraph (c) of section five, of this Act shall apply in relation to the first instalment of pension falling due after the date of commencement of this Act and to all subsequent instalments.