

Act No. 6, 1908.

SUBVENTIONS TO
FRIENDLY
SOCIETIES.

An Act to authorise payments in subvention of friendly societies in certain cases; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto. [23rd September, 1908.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the "Subventions to Friendly Societies Act, 1908."

Definitions.

2. In this Act—

"Friendly society" means friendly society registered under the Friendly Societies Act of 1899, or under any amendment thereof.

"Applicant society" means a friendly society which makes application for a grant in subvention, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and with the regulations under this Act.

Payment of
subventions.

3. (1) The subvention grants under this Act shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

Applications for
subventions.

(2) Friendly societies desirous of obtaining the advantages of this Act shall apply for the same through their trustees, in the form to be prescribed by regulation, to the registrar of friendly societies, who shall investigate such claims, and make recommendations thereon to the Minister charged with the administration of this Act.

Subvention for sick
pay.

4. There shall be paid to the trustees of every applicant society by way of subvention—

- (a) one half of the cost to the society in each year for sick-pay, according to its rules, in respect of the period of sickness after twelve months from the commencement of each case of continuous sickness, for all male members less than sixty-five years of age and for all female members less than sixty years of age;
- (b) the whole cost to the society for sick-pay in respect of male members aged sixty-five years and over, and of female members aged sixty years and over:

Provided that the amount payable by the State under this section shall not exceed five shillings for each week of sickness included in any claim made under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

Subventions to Friendly Societies.

5. There shall be paid annually to the trustees of each applicant society an amount equal to the total contributions chargeable under the rules of the society for the benefits of medical attendance and medicine in respect of male members aged sixty-five years and over, and of female members aged sixty years and over: Provided that the rules of the society shall not charge rates of contribution for such benefits different to those chargeable to members under the ages specified herein. Subvention for medical attendance.

6. There shall be paid annually to the trustees of each applicant society an amount equal to the total contributions chargeable under the rules of the society to assure the payment of the funeral donations according to its rules in respect of male members aged sixty-five years and over, and of female members aged sixty years and over. Subvention for funeral donations.

7. The moneys received by trustees of a friendly society under the three last preceding sections shall be paid by them into the respective funds which, according to the rules of the society, are charged with providing the sickness, medical, or funeral benefit of the society or branch, as the case may be, in proportion to the cost of sick-pay, medical, or funeral benefit to such funds respectively upon which the amount of subvention was based. The trustees shall supply, in the form prescribed by regulation, a statement in adjustment in proof of the due performance of the above requirements. Application of subventions.

8. The registrar of friendly societies shall tabulate, from the returns sent to him under the provisions of the Friendly Societies' Acts, and shall certify annually, the amount of sickness suffered in each society and branch for which a subvention is payable under this Act. Tabulation of returns.

9. No payment shall accrue to any society under this Act until the due requirements of the law relating to friendly societies have been observed and so certified by the registrar of friendly societies, nor until the society shall have registered a rule or rules availing itself of the privileges of this Act. Conditions precedent to payment of subventions.

10. The subvention grants payable under this Act shall apply only in respect of claims relating to periods subsequent to the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and eight. What claims admissible.

11. Claims in respect of subventions payable under this Act shall not be paid unless preferred within six months after the close of the year in respect of which they are payable. What claims to be preferred.

12. The trustees of every friendly society shall supply such information as may be required from time to time by the registrar of friendly societies in furtherance of the objects of this Act. Information to be supplied to registrar.

13. (1) Every person shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than six months, with or without hard labour, if by any wilfully false statement as to age, or other matter relative to the grant of any subvention benefit under this Act, he obtains or aids or abets any person Penalties.

Consolidated Revenue Fund and Public Works Fund (No. 2).

person to obtain subvention benefit which he would not otherwise have obtained, or of greater amount than he would otherwise have obtained.

(2) In any case where a misstatement has secured to any society or branch a higher subvention than that to which it was entitled, the Colonial Treasurer may reduce the amount of subsequent subvention grants to such extent as he may consider justifiable under the circumstances.

Penalty for misapplying moneys. **14.** If a trustee of a friendly society applies otherwise than in the manner authorised by this Act, any moneys being or being part of a subvention grant made to that society under this Act, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Regulations. **15.** The Governor may make regulations for carrying out the intentions of this Act, and may impose any penalty not exceeding fifty pounds for the breach of any such regulations.

Recovery of penalties. **16.** All penalties under this Act may be imposed by or recovered before a stipendiary or police magistrate, or any two justices in petty sessions.

Administration by registrar. **17.** The registrar of friendly societies shall be entrusted with the duties arising out of the administration of this Act, in addition to his functions under the Friendly Societies Act, 1899.
