

maintain independence. For example meals-on-wheels programs may enable elderly clients to maintain an adequate diet while continuing to live in their own homes.

Social services programs may provide such services as crisis intervention, information and referral, and family planning to anyone who applies for them. Specific services are provided to designated groups, including children, the elderly and the disabled. Examples are residential services to those needing institutional care, and social integration services to persons who are or may become socially isolated from community life.

Welfare services, including counselling and assessment, casework, rehabilitation services, community development and day care, homemaker and adoption services are provided to persons in need or to persons likely to become in need were they not to receive these services. The federal government shares in costs of salaries and employee benefits, related staff training, research and consulting services which may be provided by provincial or local governments or provincially approved agencies.

8.6.1 Provincial services for children

All provinces and territories have legislation governing basic child welfare, including the protection and care of children, adoption services and services to unmarried parents. In most provinces, services are designed to prevent child neglect. A number of provinces offer help to families in emergency situations. By agreement with the parents, this may take the form of help for a child in his own home or a temporary foster home.

These services are administered by provincial departments of social services through a division of child welfare. Direct services are provided through regional or local offices or by approved agencies such as children's aid societies.

Protection services may include supervision of a child in his own home when there is some element of identifiable neglect or need for protection. If it seems necessary for protection of a child to remove him from home, the child welfare authority may take him to a place of safety, but the child must be brought before a court within a specified time. If the child is found to be neglected or in need of protection as defined in provincial law he may be committed temporarily or permanently to the care and custody of the provincial child welfare authority. Care is provided in a foster boarding home, group home or specialized institution.

Adoption. The provincial child welfare authority arranges adoption placements where this appears appropriate. Children eligible for adoption are those legally available, that is, in the permanent care and custody of the child welfare authority and those whose parents have formally given them up for adoption. An adoption desk in the national health and welfare department provides a co-ordinating and facilitating service to the provinces for international and interprovincial adoption.

Day care has been a priority in child services during recent years. A day care information centre in the national health and welfare department was set up in 1972 to act as a clearing house for materials on day care and to afford persons and groups involved in day care an opportunity to exchange information.

As of March 31, 1978 there were approximately 82,279 day care spaces in facilities across Canada, including 7,763 family day care spaces. The number of spaces has remained relatively static over recent years but there has been a substantial increase in family and after school day care programs at the expense of full day care programs. Centres sponsored by community boards and commercial operators account for the bulk of public day care activities. A small proportion is sponsored by public authorities and parent co-operatives. Subsidies for day care services for children in need, or likely to become in need if they do not receive the service, are provided by provincial and municipal authorities and are cost-shared under CAP.

In 1978-79, cost-shared expenditures for child welfare were \$164.8 million and for care of children in institutions, \$323.9 million.

8.6.2 Programs for the elderly

Programs and services available to the aged vary from province to province. Although by no means organized in all areas, such services as visiting nurse, homemaker,