

The federal government shares with the provinces the cost of general welfare bursary training and staff development grants. A wide range of demonstration, research and social action projects are eligible for grants, as are developmental projects related to welfare manpower. Fellowships are available for study at Canadian and foreign universities. Grants available to assist Canadian schools of social work with teaching and field instruction costs terminated on March 31, 1974. Effective April 1, 1967, a mental retardation grant was established for a five-year period but has now been extended. Part of this grant is administered in conjunction with the National Welfare Grants program.

Expenditures under the National Welfare Grants program for the year ended March 31, 1973 totalled \$2,904,445. A sum of \$1,794,186 was expended on demonstration projects; \$355,859 on research projects; \$573,512 on manpower utilization and development including demonstration, the establishment of a national agency, teaching and field instruction, fellowships and a visiting professorship; \$92,216 on general national agency projects; and \$88,671 on general welfare projects including the provincially administered bursary and staff development programs.

6.4.4 Vocational rehabilitation

Under the provisions of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (VRDP) Act, the federal government contributes 50% of the costs incurred by a province in providing a comprehensive program for the vocational rehabilitation of physically and mentally disabled persons. A comprehensive program includes such services as medical, social and vocational assessment, counselling, restoration services, the provision of prostheses, training, maintenance allowances and the provision of tools, books and other equipment. These services are provided directly by the provincial government or purchased from voluntary agencies. Sharable costs also include the salary and necessary travelling costs of staff whose duties are directly related to this program and other administrative expenses necessary for the co-ordination and delivery of services to the disabled. Other rehabilitation services provided by agencies and voluntary organizations may be funded by a province and are eligible for 50% reimbursement from the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan. Since April 1, 1973 the VRDP Act has been administered by the Rehabilitation Services Division in the Canada Assistance Plan Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare, which also co-ordinates activities with other federal departments. During the fiscal year April 1972 to March 1973, the federal government contributed \$7,450,357 to the provinces under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act.

6.4.5 Family planning

The Family Planning Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare was formed in January 1972 to provide a centre of responsibility for the federal family planning program. Its objective is to ensure, in co-operation with the provinces and territories, the accessibility and availability of family planning services to all Canadians who want them by: informing Canadians about the purpose and methods of family planning so that the exercise of free individual choice in this area will be based on adequate knowledge; promoting the training of health and welfare professionals and other staff involved in family planning services; aiding family planning programs operating under public or voluntary auspices through federal grants-in-aid and joint federal-provincial programs. The Division's major program activities include consultation, information, training and the family planning grants. Consultation is provided to a broad range of government and non-government organizations. Informative educational material on family planning, sex education and family life education is distributed free of charge. Canadian material on these subjects is currently being developed. To the extent that it is feasible, the Division's consultants assist in the training of professional health, welfare and educational staff and others working in the area of family planning.

In the two years following the inception of the Family Planning Grant program in April 1972, a total of \$2.4 million has been awarded for the support of innovative family planning services, demonstration, training and research projects and for university fellowships. Grant recipients have included provincial and municipal government departments, national and local voluntary family planning agencies, native community organizations and university departments.