

lawyer interacting with an individual client or it may be delivered by several members of a team using a community based approach to large populations. In addition, by the time an evaluation of a program can be completed, usually after the end of a project, there may be no money left to complete the evaluation satisfactorily.

Another issue in evaluating a particular program, for example, a school-based program to promote positive feelings toward the elderly, relates to the difficulty of controlling for other factors such as parental or peer influence as well as campaigns in the media. A long-term study would have to be aware of and attempt to control for factors that might change over time.

While the growing number of programs across the country is seen as a positive sign of commitment to a serious problem - abuse of older Canadians - the lack of coordination among various levels of government and various organizations can mean that opportunities to learn are limited. Thus, programs that have demonstrated a positive effect in reducing abuse of the elderly in one community may be unknown to other parts as for example, videos, pamphlets, training manuals for police or other service providers. Efforts by funding bodies such as Seniors Independence/New Horizons to build a requirement for dissemination into the project budget can help to overcome this.

Committee members are aware that most federal departments involved in the Family Violence Prevention Initiative require evaluation of the funded projects. They also heard that additional follow-up is needed to ensure this is done adequately. Careful assessment must be done to ensure that sufficient funds are allocated for evaluation; that the evaluation is properly conducted and that the results are made available to other groups doing similar programs.

The Committee recommends:

- 30. That the federal government establish mechanisms to ensure that any project involving federal funds include a separate and sufficient amount for evaluations of effectiveness of educational, health, social and legal interventions relating to abuse of the elderly.**