

programs, which will take the senior out of the home for a specified period of time and allow the family to go on holidays or whatever. We have home care that will go in for several hours in the day to allow the care provider some time on their own.”⁷⁹

Another aspect of the informal caregivers’ role is the fact that they provide a wide range of services on a daily basis to older people who might otherwise be in institutions or calling on other services in the community. Committee members felt that this work of informal caregivers should be recognized in economic terms and that a study similar to those carried out on the value of unpaid work in the home needs to be done.⁸⁰

For the abused older person, many witnesses argued that maintaining them in a place of their own in their familiar neighborhood was the best approach. Pearl McKenzie argued that: “Older women often don’t leave because they want to have access to their grandchildren; they want to stay in their own community; they want to be near their doctor, their library — all the things we value as we get older.”⁸¹ Judith Leon talked about Senior Link’s comprehensive services programme, a concept borrowed from England. Maintaining older people in their homes in their communities by providing necessary cleaning, shopping and other social and health services is considered to be less expensive than institutional care in a nursing home. In the program in Kent County, England, the community-based model operated at 60 per cent of the cost of a nursing home.⁸²

Committee members heard about a variety of existing services that meet many of the needs of older Canadians. They also heard that these services are often funded on a time limited basis, that they are often not coordinated, and that they require some adjustment to adequately meet the needs of the abused elderly. The Committee believes that the provision of services to prevent and to intervene in elder abuse needs to be accorded a higher priority. They agree that existing centres for seniors could be an effective focal point for both information and services related to elder abuse.

⁷⁹ Yurkowski, 5:14.

⁸⁰ Michael Hanlon, “Women’s ‘unpaid work’ is worth billions” *Toronto Star*, May 9, 1993, p. A1.

⁸¹ McKenzie, 8:7

⁸² Leon, 9:12.