

but we believe that many groups are in serious financial need. We are also convinced that they will use any additional funding they receive to best effect. The President of CAS, Joan Anderson, spoke of the economical manner in which all of the Society's member groups have always had to operate, and assured us that - "We appreciate limited resources, and when we have our resources we use them well and effectively."

RECOMMENDATION 49:

The Committee has concluded that more core funding must be provided to community-based organizations. The Committee therefore recommends that the Department of National Health and Welfare ensure that increased funding commitments are made to the Canadian AIDS Society and other community-based AIDS organizations to enable them to carry out their ongoing responsibilities.

One of the particular difficulties that community-based groups have faced on both the national and local levels has been the complexity and delay involved in making applications for funding to the Department of Health and Welfare. Different funding streams have been established in the Department for different purposes, and one group will often have to make applications to several sections of the Department. The Canadian AIDS Society, for example, makes applications to at least two different programs administered by the Health Services and Promotion Branch, and to two different bureaus of the Federal Centre for AIDS.

While the manner in which the Department's AIDS activities are structured may be the most effective from the point of view of administering programs, it should not create undue complexity for community groups active on the front lines. The delays experienced in concluding funding arrangements for the current fiscal year may indicate that the complexity is also creating needless and possibly injurious delay. The Department must find ways to deal with this problem.

One of the answers may be multi-year funding agreements. When the officials from the Department appeared before us, Richard Dicerni, the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, advised us that the Department was working toward such agreements in order to reduce the amount of paperwork required. In endorsing this approach, we do not intend to suggest that it