

SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DIVISION

Divisional Goals

- To enhance opportunities for children and adults with disabilities in Manitoba to attain increased self-sufficiency, independence and participation in society.
- To harmonize the major aspects of programs, legislation, policies and practices, providing leadership in the development of solutions to better integrate supports for children and adults with disabilities.
- To continue to develop and implement a framework to establish and strengthen effective, inclusive, community partnerships and consultation processes.
- To recognize, promote and encourage effective communication and ongoing collaboration with staff, both within and outside the division.
- To continue to develop clear roles, responsibilities and effective working relationships within the division, department, the Disabilities Issues Office, and other government departments.

Divisional Responsibilities

- Provides coordination, direction and support for the department's programs for persons with disabilities.
- Provides program direction and funding for services to children with disabilities; for supported living services for adults with a mental disability; for vocational rehabilitation services for adults with a physical, mental, psychiatric or learning disability; and for employment and income support services to persons with disabilities.
- Administers the substitute decision-making provisions of *The Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Act*.
- Provides central program and financial management, policy and strategic initiative development, legislative and information systems business support services.

The division includes the following program areas that are responsible for services that address the needs of Manitobans with disabilities:

- Strategic Initiatives and Program Support
- Adult and Children's Programs
- Office of the Vulnerable Persons' Commissioner

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

Objectives

- To work in conjunction with the Adult and Children's Programs Branch and the Community Service Delivery Division in providing effective leadership, coordination, direction and support for the department's adult and children's programs for persons with disabilities.
- To research, design and develop policies and practices that shape the programs and services available to persons with disabilities.

- To take the lead role in developing and reviewing standards, quality assurance and performance measures and legislation that impact services provided to persons with disabilities.
- To pursue innovative solutions and initiatives which improve services for persons with disabilities and reflect the Vision, Mission and Goals of the division and the department.

Responsibilities

- Provides central program and policy direction for divisional programming.
- Provides program analysis, policy and strategic initiatives development, legislative and regulatory services.
- Provides business support services for adult and children's information systems.
- Provides financial management, central administration and support services.

09-3A Strategic Initiatives and Program Support

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2004/05 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2004/05* \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,378.9	20.00	1,269.6	109.3	
Total Other Expenditures	1,418.6		1,428.7	(10.1)	

* *The 2004/05 Estimate reflects amounts as displayed in the printed Main Estimates on behalf of the Department of Family Services and Housing, as well as an allocation from Enabling Appropriations for unbudgeted severance pay and retiring benefits.*

Activities/Highlights in 2004/05

- Provided leadership in the ongoing development of the strategic direction for the division, including the vision; mission; goals; and values and principles.
- Continued to participate in the Joint Community and Government Members Committee on Disability-Related Employment and Income Assistance Issues. The purpose of the Joint Committee is to provide a common table where government and community members can participate in a cooperative and collaborative approach to share information and opinions and provide constructive input as part of a process to address common issues for persons with disabilities receiving Employment and Income Assistance.
- Conducted a survey of Day Services' agencies/organizations in order to better understand the types of services that currently exist and for whom, and to amend the Supported Living Program's current definitions as necessary.
- Implemented the first phase and continued the development and enhancement of the Integrated Financial Client and Case Tracking (inFACT) computer system, designed as an information management system to improve participant and financial tracking of program expenditures for the Supported Living, Children's Special Services and Special Needs programs.

- Continued the Canada Pension Plan Disability Project in Winnipeg, whereby Employment and Income Assistance participants are assisted to improve their access to federal Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits by receiving in-person assistance to complete applications and with the appeals process. An evaluation of the project was conducted which determined that the project is continuing to be successful in meeting its objectives.
- Developed an employment strategy to promote the employment abilities of persons with disabilities in Manitoba, in response to the Minister's commitment to work with the community and other stakeholders to enable people with disabilities to actively participate in the labour market. Major components of the strategy include a Multi-Sector Strategy Forum with representation from business, persons with disabilities, employment agencies and government to develop strategies to enhance the employment of persons with disabilities; the establishment of the Employability Support Unit; development of a proposal for a community organization to conduct an employment research project; and introduction of the Diversity Within project within Family Services and Housing.
- Established the Employability Support Unit, a pilot project, to assist persons with disabilities receiving Employment and Income Assistance to move to employment. The Unit proactively identifies and contacts participants to inform them about the employment supports and services available to them. Employment Coordinators conduct an initial assessment of participants' needs and then refer them to Vocational Rehabilitation or community programs best-suited to meet their needs, or direct employment support is provided where appropriate.

ADULT AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Objectives

- To provide program direction and funding for supported living programs for adults with a mental disability.
- To provide support to families with children who have developmental and/or physical disabilities.
- To plan and develop innovative means of meeting the child care needs of parents who have children with special needs.
- To provide leadership, direction and focus to the Vocational Rehabilitation program for adults with a physical, mental, psychiatric or learning disability.
- To provide direction and funding for employment and income support services to persons with disabilities.

The branch is divided into the following areas:

- Supported Living – Responsible for the planning, development, maintenance, overall direction and management of programs and resources that support and enhance the quality of life of adults with a mental disability living in the community. Responsible for the review and development of policies associated with Day Services, Residential Services, Support Services and Residential Care Licensing.
- Children's Programs – Responsible for policy and program development to support children with disabilities, their families and caregivers. Children's Programs includes two components: Children's Special Services Program and Community Services and Child Care.
- Employment and Income Support Services – Provides leadership, direction and funding to programs for persons with disabilities interested in pursuing training and employment opportunities. Responsible for

services provided through the Employment and Income Assistance for persons with disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

Responsibilities

- Provides leadership and support to Community Service Delivery staff, external agencies and other service partners in promoting effective and efficient program administrative practices in the delivery of support services for adults and children with a physical and/or mental disability.
- Provides financial management, which includes preparing and managing the overall budget, with input from the Community Service Delivery Division; identifying the resources required to provide quality, cost-effective services; allocating financial resources; ensuring that programs are delivered within budgeted resources; and ensuring financial accountability for program funds.
- Interprets policy and legislation to government and non-government service providers.
- Develops and revises policies and programs in a manner that is consistent with, and responsive to, ongoing changes in other programs and the socio-economic environment, and the community as a whole.
- Provides licensing standards to ensure the safety, health and well-being of adults with a mental disability, mental disorder, cognitive impairments or frailty due to aging, who reside in community residential care facilities; and children with disabilities in child care facilities.
- Monitors and evaluates programs and services, including the adequacy of service rates and the ongoing identification of participants' needs and ensures that programs are delivered within government policy and legislation.
- Provides training and development opportunities for staff of the Community Service Delivery Division, Services for Persons with Disabilities Division and related agencies to ensure a working knowledge of programs and policies.

09-3B-1 & 2 Adult and Children's Programs

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2004/05 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2004/05 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,195.8	19.50	1,298.8	(103.0)	
Total Other Expenditures	367.1		494.5	(127.4)	

09-3B-3 Adult and Children's Programs – Supported Living

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2004/05 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2004/05 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Supported Living	121,453.8		123,293.3	(1,839.5)	1
Total Sub-Appropriation	121,453.8		123,293.3	(1,839.5)	

1. The surplus is primarily attributable to the timing associated with implementing supported living services to individuals with mental disabilities.

09-3B-4 Adult and Children's Programs – Children's Programs

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2004/05 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2004/05 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Children's Special Services	16,648.3		17,171.9	(523.6)	
Community Services and Child Care	8,894.5		9,503.4	(608.9)	
Total Sub-Appropriation	25,542.8		26,675.3	(1,132.5)	

09-3B-5 Adult and Children's Programs – Employment and Income Support

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2004/05 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2004/05 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Employment and Income Assistance	135,220.5		132,879.5	2,341.0	1
Health Services	38,543.8		34,970.4	3,573.4	2
Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities	15,993.9		16,100.5	(106.6)	
Vocational Rehabilitation	5,992.4		6,287.9	(295.5)	
Total Sub-Appropriation	195,750.6		190,238.3	5,512.3	

1. The shortfall is due to an increase in both the cost per case and number of cases.
2. The shortfall is due to an increase in the volume of prescriptions.

Activities/Highlights in 2004/05**Supported Living**

The Supported Living Program offers a range of day and residential services aimed at providing adults with a mental disability the opportunity for independence in a community setting to the extent possible for each individual. The Supported Living Program supports, that are potentially available, include residential services, day services, and related support services.

Residential services include funding for a range of residential supports to assist adults with a mental disability to live in the community in their residential option of choice. The day services provided through the Supported Living Program include supported employment and follow-up services, services with a vocational focus, and individualized development services. Additional supports available with funding from the Supported Living Program may consist of transportation between residential and day programs, respite and crisis intervention, and clinical services.

- Funding for Supported Living programming increased substantially over the last few years in support of the commitment to meet the needs of adults with disabilities and their families. In 2004/05, the department continued to increase funding for the program to expand supports and services for adults with a mental disability. These supports, which included residential, respite, and day services as well as case management activities such as counseling and referral, allowed over 4,250 adults with a mental disability to safely live and participate as full and active members of the community. Funding for

pensions and benefits was provided to full-time staff of agencies to assist them with staff recruitment and retention.

- In 2004/05, the Supported Living Program continued to build the skills and qualifications of service providers who support adults with a mental disability.
 - Training was delivered to over 2,600 agency staff in critical skill and knowledge areas such as non-violent crisis intervention, first aid, foundations in disability and community support, supervisory skills, person-centered planning, social role valorization, and supported employment skills.
 - The Supported Living Program, through the Staffing Stabilization Initiative, continued to partner with service providers in the development and implementation of the Human Resource Strategy that aims to ensure a well-qualified workforce to provide services to adults with a mental disability. Service providers attended workshops, conducted by the Human Resource Strategy Sub-Committee, on the tools and resources developed. These included job descriptions, a competency model and a ten-year Vision statement.
- In partnership with the departments of Health and Justice, the Supported Living Program is participating in the management of a Provincial Special Needs Program for individuals who present a serious risk to themselves or the community, but who would not otherwise be eligible for the supported living supports or Community Mental Health Services.
- By the end of 2004/05, the Provincial Special Needs Program (PSNP) was serving 88 participants, 57 of whom were receiving program funding. The remaining 31 participants received case management supports with no direct program funding attached.
- Residential Care Licensing staff inspected 204 licensed adult residential care facilities, with a total of 1,402 bed spaces to ensure continued compliance with standards. Staff also provided consultation and support to designated licensing authorities for approved facilities. In 2004/05, the designated authorities (Family Services and Housing Regional Managers and Regional Health Authorities) issued 769 letters of approval for homes with three beds or less, representing a total of 1,431 bed spaces.
- Residential Care Licensing staff continued to participate in planning meetings with the City of Winnipeg, the Fire Prevention Office and the Office of the Fire Commissioner to develop a set of fire safety guidelines for approved homes (three beds and under). These guidelines will be shared throughout the province once they are finalized.
- Six of the eleven Regional Health Authorities have accepted the delegated licensing responsibility for approved homes for their program (Mental Health). Residential Care Licensing staff provide training and policy interpretation, as required.

Supported Living
Total Active Caseload by Type of Accommodation
as at March 31

Accommodation	2002/03 Active Files	2003/04 Active Files	2004/05 Active Files
Foster Homes and Private Licensed Residential Care Facilities	531	530	621
Parental Homes	1,147	1,140	1,104
Agency-Managed Residential Care Facilities	996	1,099	1,236
Extended Family	206	220	228
Independent Living with Support	527	520	623
Independent Living	373	370	270
Alternate Care (e.g. Hospitals, Personal Care Homes)	121	120	137
In the Company of Friends	45	45	47
Total	3,946	4,044	4,266

Supported Living
Total Active Caseload by Type of Day Activity
as at March 31

Day Activity	2002/03 Active Files	2003/04 Active Files	2004/05 Active Files
Competitive Employment	151	174	216
Supported Employment and Follow-Up Services	333	330	362
Services with a Vocational Focus	1,133	1,175	1,325
Personal Development Services	806	820	929
In the Company of Friends	45	45	47
Attending School	633	630	513
Retirement Program	65	70	98
No Program	780	800	776
Total	3,946	4,044	4,266

Residential Services
Individuals Funded by Region
as at March 31

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	1,060	1,162	1,228
Eastman	149	156	172
Interlake	153	165	178
Central	210	220	250
Westman	307	314	341
Parkland	129	137	152
Northern	95	91	87
Total	2,103	2,245	2,408

**In the Company of Friends
Individuals Participating in Program
as at March 31**

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Number of Participants	45	45	47

**Respite Services
Individuals Funded by Region
as at March 31**

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	318	325	445
Eastman	116	115	144
Interlake	69	72	80
Central	80	82	116
Westman	87	97	126
Parkland	35	51	83
Northern	21	29	90
Total	726	771	1,084

**Crisis Intervention
Individuals Funded by Region
as at March 31**

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	187	159	175
Eastman	32	21	13
Interlake	18	20	20
Central	7	19	26
Westman	28	38	21
Parkland	5	8	8
Northern	13	19	11
Total	290	284	274

**Day Services
Individuals Funded by Region**
as at March 31

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	1,116	1,189	1,280
Eastman	300	293	302
Interlake	144	155	174
Central	313	313	329
Westman	295	297	306
Parkland	122	124	129
Northern	65	68	72
Total	2,355	2,439	2,592

**Day Services – Special Rate
Individuals Funded by Region**
as at March 31

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	400	457	545
Eastman	62	59	66
Interlake	17	19	21
Central	29	33	40
Westman	99	104	113
Parkland	23	26	28
Northern	20	25	30
Total	650	723	843

**Day Services – Transportation
Individuals Funded by Region**
as at March 31

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	1,052	1,119	1,197
Eastman	253	251	251
Interlake	123	131	145
Central	222	214	237
Westman	250	256	271
Parkland	95	97	99
Northern	44	49	52
Total	2,039	2,117	2,252

**Number of Licensed and Approved Residential Care Facilities and Beds
as at March 31**

	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	Facilities/Beds		Facilities/Beds		Facilities/Beds	
Licensed	178	1,301	182	1,297	204	1,402
Approved	718	1,359	737	1,389	769	1,431
Total	896	2,660	919	2,686	973	2,833

**ANNUAL REPORTS OF ALLEGED ABUSE/NEGLECT
2002/03 TO 2004/05**

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Reports of Alleged Abuse/Neglect	122	106	129
Referred to Police or RCMP	19	31	13
Person Charged under the Criminal Code	2	1	3

Reported Allegations of Abuse/Neglect April 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005							
Region	Types of Alleged Abuse/Neglect						
	Verbal	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Financial	Neglect	Total
Central	1	7	1	0	3	0	12
Eastman	1	2	0	0	0	2	5
Interlake	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Northern	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Parkland	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
Westman	0	6	2	5	0	1	14
Winnipeg	0	51	17	2	15	6	91
Total	3	69	21	8	18	10	129

Children's Programs

Children's Programs is responsible for policy and program development to support children with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

Children's Programs continued to operationalize the department's Integrated Service Delivery by integrating Children's Special Services, the Children with Disabilities in Child Care Program, children with disabilities whose families receive Employment and Income Assistance, and children with disabilities who are in care with a child welfare agency. These programs are being harmonized to facilitate improved access to service and to better address the needs of children and their families.

Children's Special Services

Children's Special Services (CSS) is a non-statutory, voluntary program that provides assistance to natural, adoptive or extended families living with children who have developmental and/or physical disabilities. Program staff in six regional offices throughout the province and six community areas in Winnipeg provide case management support and individualized services that address the unique needs and circumstances of eligible children and their families. Services and supports are intended to strengthen families and reduce their stress so that costly out-of-home placement is prevented or delayed.

CSS also provides grant funding to external agencies to deliver specialized services.

Family Support Services

Children's Special Services provides families who have children with a developmental and/or physical disability with a variety of supports that reflect the unique circumstances of each family and the needs of their child. Staff use a family-centred approach in helping families to identify and access the resources, both formal and informal, that they require. These supports include provision of individualized services such as respite care, child development, therapy, supplies, equipment, transportation, and home modifications. The purpose of family support is to reduce stress encountered by families and to better enable families to address the needs of their children with disabilities in their own homes.

In 2004/05, the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) program for pre-school children was further expanded to accommodate all of the children on the waitlist, serving up to 58 children. The ABA program provides intensive behaviour intervention and is delivered by St. Amant Centre in partnership with the Manitoba Families for Effective Autism Treatment.

Children's Special Services delivers Family Support Services through regional offices, staffed by the department's Community Services Delivery Division and supports these services and staff by providing financial and program guidelines, consultation, training, research and evaluation.

Children's Special Services – Family Support Services and Unified Referral and Intake System (URIS) Group A

Children Served by Region

as at March 31

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	1,905	1,993	2,011
Eastman	337	312	340
Interlake	250	248	263
Central	246	278	320
Westman	418	428	477
Parkland	139	156	151
Northern	237	248	260
URIS Group A	61	49	54
Total	3,593	3,712	3,876

Funding to External Agencies

Children's Special Services provides funding and consultation to external agencies that deliver specialized services, such as therapy and respite for children with disabilities and their families. Funded non-government agencies include Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, Rehabilitation Centre for Children, St. Amant Centre, Community Respite Services, Central Speech and Hearing Clinic and Open Access Resource Centre.

Children's Special Services works closely with the Manitoba Child Care Program and Child Protection and Support Services, Healthy Child Manitoba Office, the voluntary sector, the Regional Health Authorities, hospitals, schools, and agencies. As well, Children's Programs staff work collaboratively with the provincial departments of Education, Citizenship and Youth; and Health to coordinate programs and activities that promote and support the development of children with disabilities and their families.

Unified Referral and Intake System

Children's Programs provides leadership and administrative support to the Unified Referral and Intake System (URIS), a joint initiative of the departments of Family Services and Housing; Education, Citizenship and Youth; and Health. The protocol supports children who require assistance to perform medical procedures when they are apart from their parents/guardians.

URIS provides funding and policy direction to assist community programs, such as schools, child care facilities, recreation programs and respite services to safely support children with special health care needs.

Unified Referral and Intake System Number of Children Registered for Service as at March 31

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
URIS Group B*	6,111	7,204	9,094

* *URIS Group B refers to children who require health care routines that may be delegated to non-health care personnel trained and monitored by a registered nurse.*

Provincial Outreach Therapy for Children

The Provincial Outreach Therapy for Children (POTC) program is delivered as a joint venture by the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD) and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC). SMD delivers occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy to pre-school children in Winnipeg and delivers speech and language services to pre-school children in rural and northern Manitoba. RCC delivers occupational therapy to pre-school children and some school age children in rural and northern Manitoba. In Winnipeg, St. Amant Centre is also a participating agency in POTC. Services are provided to children who are eligible for Children's Special Services.

The goal of POTC is to utilize a collaborative, consultative approach in which therapy is provided in the child's natural setting. Therapists work with the child's parents or caregivers so that they become the primary provider of therapy services and integrate that therapy into the child's and their daily routines.

Children's Therapy Initiative

Manitoba Health; Education, Citizenship and Youth; and Family Services and Housing provide funding for children's occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech/language pathology and audiology services. These services are delivered through the Regional Health Authorities, school divisions and service agencies.

Based on the recommendations stemming from the regional consultations with major stakeholders throughout the province, an interdepartmental working group has developed a framework for the provision of the above services.

The Children's Therapy Initiative (CTI) is intended to provide coordinated regionally-based therapy services that assist all children in need of therapy to reach their full potential. The approach will improve delivery of existing therapy services and result in a more effective provision of services through better collaboration between stakeholders. Pilot projects were carried out in Winnipeg, Central Region, Brandon and Northern Region. In 2004/05, projects piloted in the previous year were funded to move forward in implementing their respective regional plans for the coordinated delivery of therapy services for children. As well, new projects in additional regions were funded to develop a regional CTI plan.

Community Services and Child Care

Children with Disabilities in Child Care Program

Children's Programs is responsible for the Children With Disabilities in Child Care (CWD) program that supports the child care needs of children with disabilities and their families. It is responsible for providing program and administrative direction to eligible child care centres and homes to support the attendance and participation of children with disabilities.

CWD provides supports and grants to assist child care centres, nursery schools, family child care and group child care homes to work with children with mental, physical, behavioural and emotional disabilities. The goal of enrolling children with disabilities in early childhood settings is to help promote their developmental potential within an inclusive community environment.

Children with Disabilities in Child Care Program Number of Children Who Received Service as at March 31

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Number of Children	1,271	1,366	1,490

Children in Care with Disabilities Receiving Supports from the Exceptional Circumstances Fund

Children's Programs is responsible for the administration of the sections of *The Child and Family Services Act* that address the needs and rights of children with disabilities in care.

The Exceptional Circumstances Fund refers to central funding administered by the Child Protection Branch for children in the care of child and family services agencies or regional offices who meet one of several unique criteria to merit specialized funding. Services and supports through Exceptional Circumstances funding are comprised of two components: one-time only funding requests and children whose needs are determined to be in the Level V range by the Exceptional Circumstances Committee of the Child Protection Branch.

Children with Disabilities Whose Parents are in Receipt of Employment and Income Assistance

Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) is a provincial program for people who need help to meet basic personal and family needs. Wherever possible, the program is aimed at helping people find a job or get back to work. Children with disabilities are supported by EIA by virtue of their families being enrolled in the program.

Employment and Income Support Services

Employment and Income Assistance – Persons with Disabilities

Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), operating under the authority of *The Employment and Income Assistance Act*, provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities who are in need and eligible for assistance, while the Health Services program provides assistance for essential health services.

Employment and Income Support programs continue to develop various protocols and policies in support of *Full Citizenship: A Manitoba Provincial Strategy on Disability*.

A new process has been implemented for persons with disabilities, which provides quicker access to financial supports for short-term skills training. In conjunction with this, EIA staff have been encouraged to develop action plans with those participants who are interested in becoming employed.

Persons with disabilities who are actively involved in approved training opportunities will not have their vocational plans interrupted due to the expiration of their disability eligibility. Disability eligibility will remain in place for the duration of their plan.

Board and room and residential facilities received rate increases in 2004/05.

Employment and Income Support – Employment and Income Assistance – Persons with Disabilities Average Monthly Caseload as at March 31

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Persons with Disabilities	16,198	16,696	17,110

Employment and Income Support – Employment and Income Assistance – Persons with Disabilities Expenditures by Category (\$000) as at March 31

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Persons with Disabilities	\$120,319.5	\$126,861.7	\$135,220.5

Employment and Income Support Health Services for Persons with Disabilities – Caseload as at March 31

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Cases	14,859	15,029	15,262

Employment and Income Support – Health Services
Expenditures by Category (\$000)
as at March 31

Category	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Dental	\$2,004.2	\$2,177.9	\$2,343.4
Drugs	29,080.6	32,631.6	35,823.0
Optical	375.5	392.6	377.4
Total	\$31,460.3	\$35,202.1	\$38,543.8

Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

The Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities program provides for additional financial assistance for adults with disabilities enrolled under Employment and Income Assistance, in recognition of the additional costs associated with living in the community. Program benefits are \$80.00 per month.

Employment and Income Support – Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities
Caseload
as at March 31

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Average Monthly Caseload	15,403	15,925	16,355

Employment and Income Support – Income Assistance for Persons with Disabilities
Expenditures (\$000)
as at March 31

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Total	\$15,085.4	\$15,572.9	\$15,993.9

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Vocational Rehabilitation program assists eligible adults with a disability to pursue and secure gainful employment by providing a spectrum of vocational training, education and support services.

Individual vocational training plans are submitted to the Vocational Rehabilitation program by Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellors employed by Community Service Delivery or grant funded agencies. Based on these plans, funds are approved to assist individuals in accessing vocational training services.

The objectives of the Vocational Rehabilitation program are:

- To provide vocational rehabilitation services to adults with a disability, to enhance their independence and ability to contribute socially and economically through employment in the competitive labour force.
- To assist adults with a mental, physical, psychiatric or learning disability to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment through the provision of assessment, training, education and support services.

Activities/Highlights in 2004/05

- Transferred Doray Enterprises Inc., an employment program for adults who have a psychiatric disability and are not ready to cope with the demands and pressures of the competitive work environment, to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority in order to align services with other employment-related programs for people with psychiatric disabilities.
- Conducted a review to update the Vocational Rehabilitation policy manual to reflect the Integrated Service Delivery model, clarify procedures and make changes identified by field staff.
- Partnered with Social Development Canada to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of Manitoba's labour market programming for persons with disabilities which is supported by the Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities (LMAPD). The LMAPD Evaluation Framework and Methodology Report was completed and outlines the methodologies required to perform an evaluation of LMAPD programming in Manitoba in the future.
- Continued meeting with the departments of Health and Advanced Education and Training to review supported employment programs and develop a joint strategic plan based on the review of Manitoba's supported employment services infrastructure.
- Provided vocational services for 4,621 people with disabilities with 1,388 receiving vocational training funds to assist them in accessing education and training opportunities to improve employment outcomes.
- Vocational Rehabilitation outcome data for 2004/05 is not available until October 2005, but data for 2003/04 indicates that services were provided for 4,525 participants and 1,443 had some form of employment following intervention. A further 257 participants in vocational crisis were supported by the program to preserve employment.
- Beginning in 2004/05, the federal contribution level available for cost-sharing vocational rehabilitation programs under the LMAPD increased by approximately \$1.1 million from \$7.9 million to approximately \$9 million annually.
- Conducted a business process analysis of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The Vocational Rehabilitation Business Process Analysis report provides recommendations to simplify the administration of the program.
- Continued to create an awareness of the abilities of persons with disabilities to promote and support their employability in 2004/05 and will continue to develop strategies in this area.

Employment and Income Support – Vocational Rehabilitation

Total Active Caseload by Disability

as at March 31

Disability	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Physical Disability	844	874	914
Psychiatric Disability	1,153	1,226	1,280
Mental Disability	701	697	728
Learning Disability	307	284	288
Sight Disability	595	599	578
Hearing Disability	221	247	237
Total	3,821	3,927	4,025

Employment and Income Support – Vocational Rehabilitation
Total Active Caseload by Region/Program/Agency
as at March 31

Region/Program/Agency	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Winnipeg	1,086	988	1,077
Westman	229	235	240
Eastman	88	77	98
Central	133	140	102
Interlake	53	60	60
Parkland	102	94	99
Northern	35	22	27
Grant Funded Agencies	1,457	1,495	1,511
Employment and Income Assistance	447	549	513
Self Directed	13	16	19
Reaching Equality Employment Services	6	5	7
Mental Health	172	246	272
Total	3,821	3,927	4,025

Employment and Income Support – Vocational Rehabilitation
Individuals Funded by Disability
as at March 31

Disability	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Physical Disability	481	426	330
Psychiatric Disability	697	681	505
Mental Disability	297	310	276
Learning Disability	146	129	150
Sight Disability	59	58	40
Hearing Disability	98	93	87
Total	1,778	1,697	*1,388

* The number of participants accessing the training fund decreased due to the transfer of Doray Enterprises Inc. to the Department of Health. There was also an additional reduction in EIA participants accessing the fund as a result of increasing vocational planning expectations and targeting expenditures on short-term skill training.

The following table outlines the services purchased by type of service. The number of services provided is much larger than the number of individuals served, as any one individual may consume a number of different services simultaneously or over time.

**Employment and Income Support – Vocational Rehabilitation
Services Purchased by Type
as at March 31**

Disability	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Education – University	141	137	149
Education – Community College	161	161	195
Education – Special Colleges	39	48	49
Education – School	30	35	42
Education – Out of Province	8	11	5
Work Assessment/Training	2,653	2,513	2,382
Transportation	2,124	1,979	1,484
Special Services	2,745	2,551	2,166
Other	17	11	5
Total	7,918	7,446	6,477

OFFICE OF THE VULNERABLE PERSONS' COMMISSIONER

Objectives

- To administer the substitute decision making provisions of *The Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Act* (the "Act") which was proclaimed on October 4, 1996, in keeping with the department's goal of increasing the safety and well-being of persons who are vulnerable or at-risk. The Act is designed to safeguard the rights of vulnerable persons and to protect them from abuse and neglect. A substitute decision maker (SDM) is an individual appointed by the Vulnerable Persons' Commissioner to make decisions for a vulnerable person who requires decisions to be made and is unable to make them. A vulnerable person is defined in the Act as an adult living with a mental disability who is in need of assistance to meet his or her basic needs with regard to personal care or management of his or her property.

Responsibilities

- Conducts preliminary investigations for the appointment of SDMs for vulnerable persons.
- Establishes hearing panels to review applications and make recommendations to the Vulnerable Persons' Commissioner as to whether the criteria for the appointment of a SDM are met, as well as the terms and conditions of any appointment.
- Appoints SDMs and keeps a register of appointments of SDMs.
- Provides notice to vulnerable persons, their families, support network members and SDMs with respect to the disposition of applications and the appointment of SDMs.
- Provides information to vulnerable persons, their families and friends and members of the general public about the SDM process.

09-3C Office of the Vulnerable Persons' Commissioner

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2004/05 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2004/05 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	377.0	5.00	388.7	(11.7)	
Total Other Expenditures	92.5		124.5	(32.0)	

Activities/Highlights in 2004/05

- Administered the substitute decision making provisions of the Act.
- Reviewed and carried out preliminary investigations on 129 applications for the appointment of a SDM for a vulnerable person.
- Reviewed and took action on 39 applications for the appointment of an emergency SDM for a vulnerable person.
- Maintained a register of appointments of SDMs for 1,552 vulnerable persons.
- Reviewed and monitored the activities of approximately 450 family members and friends who are SDMs for personal care and/or property for vulnerable persons.
- Carried out approximately 80 reviews of vulnerable persons whose appointment of a SDM was expiring to determine if the appointment should be renewed.
- Made presentations to approximately 500 persons including vulnerable persons and their families, staff and board members of non-governmental organizations, social workers and staff in government organizations. Presentations included information sessions with parents of children with Asperger's syndrome as well as with students learning how to work with persons with fetal alcohol/fetal alcohol effect syndrome. Participated in two joint public seminars with the public trustee in Brandon and in Winnipeg.