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MP slams centre closure

Ian Walker criticises the close of Roma legal centre

By **BLAKE ANTROBUS**

THE closure of the Roma Community Legal Service has prompted outrage in the community, with Shadow Attorney General Ian Walker labelling the closure a "disappointment".

Mr Walker attended Roma to examine the health of the community arts sector and access to community legal services in town after hearing concerns

about the closure of the RCLS earlier this year.

Meeting with Warrego MP Ann Leahy, the pair discussed some of the issues central to regional and rural Queensland.

Mr Walker said he was

impressed with the performance of the legal practitioners in light of the lack of resources in the area.

"I got the impression that the court house was serving the community well, but the local practitioners remain concerned about the availability of affordable legal resources for the community," he said.

"Rural and regional Queensland have very thin resources when it comes to matters involving domestic violence and drug

treatment.

"Ann has been a strong

advocate for the people of Roma on this matter."

Mr Walker also commended the service of the local arts community, which he said provided a great space for people to express themselves.

"Maranoa Regional Council has provided a great gallery for the varied community art groups in town," he said.

"The ability to have a strong artistic life is something that keeps them upbeat and engaged."

Ms Leahy said she was grateful to have Mr Walker down in Roma to understand the situation and the general scene of regional legal practice in the region.