

Federal funds sought for Robina legal centre

THE Robina Community Legal Centre could be in for a boost after the area's councillor vowed to write to the Federal Attorney General in a bid to have the centre officially recognised.

If successful, the move would allow the centre to access federal funding towards its operating costs.

In the interim, Robina councillor Hermann Vorster has kicked in \$10,000 to cover the centre's rent for the coming year plus the costs of running an outreach program in Varsity Lakes.

"It means residents from across the community will benefit," he said.

"They do a fantastic job supporting the vulnerable people in the community including victims of family and domestic violence and make a real difference in the lives of thousands."

Mr Vorster said the Coast was in desperate need of a second community legal centre to complement the existing one at Southport.

"I know many councillors recognise the value of having a secondary legal centre," he said.

"Ultimately the Gold Coast needs two accredited community legal centres. Cairns has five and it's an injustice to think

the Gold Coast has been left with only one."

Mr Vorster said he had been lobbying to ensure the Robina centre was funded alongside the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre at Southport.

"What this is about is making a \$10,000 contribution to an operation that provides the equivalent of \$2.5 million in volunteer funding.

"It's a pretty good investment."

RLC founder Ross Lee said he was starting to get quietly confident about the chances of securing federal funding.

"It would be fantastic to get it," he said.