

Feds say funds have doubled since 2010

KEPPEL MP Brittany Lauga has accused the Federal Government of slashing funds to one of the most used services in Central Queensland.

However a spokesman from the Attorney-General's office said funding for the CQ Community Legal Centre had increased by almost 50 per cent since 2010.

Ms Lauga yesterday called on Capricornia MP Michelle Landry and Senator Matt Canavan to stand up for the legal centre and stop Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull cutting funding.

"Staff in my office

regularly direct people to this legal centre which offers a range of services free to those unable to afford legal counsel," Mrs Lauga said.

"But all this is in jeopardy now thanks to the Turnbull government cutting \$2 million from these vital community legal services which help vulnerable people seek justice.

"These funding cuts could force the CQ Community Legal Centre to reduce its services, close branch offices, telephone advice and sack staff," Mrs Lauga said.

A response to the matter from a spokesperson from

Attorney General Senator George Brandis' office stated "even in a resource

constrained environment, the Australian Government is providing over \$1.6 billion for legal aid, community legal centres and Indigenous legal assistance between 2015 and 2020".

"In addition, the Government has provided \$45 million for frontline legal assistance services as part of its \$200 million investment to provide services and reduce violence against women and children; \$16.5 million of this is going directly to community legal

centres," the spokesperson said.

"This amount exceeds the savings measures that were applied in the 2013 MYEFO savings.

"Commonwealth funding for the Central Queensland Community Legal Centre has increased by almost 50 per cent since 2010."

"When in government, the Labor Party through then Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus allocated an amount of funding but decided it would expire on 30 June 2017."

— Amber Hooker and Keri-Anne Mesner



CQ Community Legal Centre's Flora Wellington of My Will and CQCLC president Lauren Farrelly of Rees Jones with Justice Duncan McMeekin and CQCLC principal solicitor Fay Izoutzias at the opening of the CQCLC at the new Quay St premises.

PHOTO: AMBER HOOKER

Dan Murphy's

HERE'S PROOF NOBODY BEATS
DAN MURPHY'S

6 FOR

\$35

\$12

\$14

Bill Byrne
hits back
at gov't
on weir