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Queensland welcomes Brandis backflip on Community Legal Centres

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Queensland Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath has welcomed the Turnbull Government's backflip on funding for Community Legal Centres, saying Canberra has finally listened to community concerns.



"As I've warned repeatedly, these vital centres were heading for a funding cliff on July 1," Mrs D'Ath said.
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"I see George Brandis is somehow patting himself on the back today but it is a travesty that it has taken him this long to acknowledge the needs of the vulnerable in our community."
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"I am relieved that George Brandis has listened to reason, but the uncertainty has been deeply troubling for centres who have had to turn vulnerable people away."
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"It's somewhat depressing that he has had to be dragged kicking and screaming to this decision, given that he has ignored ever State and Territory's call for this to be discussed at Ministerial Council."
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"And it's worth noting that we still have no formal notification of this decision; we are basing our statement on media reports alone," Mrs D'Ath said.
Federal Attorney-General George Brandis today reportedly announced the May 9 Federal Budget would include \$39 million of funding for community legal centres and \$16.7 million for indigenous legal services over three years.
(<https://www.instagram.com/mysunshinecoast>)

The Palaszczuk Government recently announced \$51.3 million of combined State and Federal Government funding for 36 Community Legal Centres across Queensland for the next three financial years.

"We've managed to find extra funding for CLCs, but simply weren't able to fill all the gaps left by the Turnbull government's decision," Mrs D'Ath said.

"We just hope this hasn't come too late for some people, and that vulnerable members of our community haven't been left in distress because of George Brandis finally noticing people beyond his ivory tower.

"I would like to acknowledge the advocacy of Community Legal Centres, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland and other legal stakeholders, and local MPs, who have fought for this funding to be rightfully restored.

"We look forward to getting more detail from Mr Brandis as soon as possible, so that we can provide certainty for CLCs across Queensland."

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills

The Honourable Yvette D'Ath



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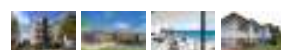
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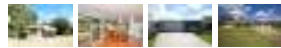
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