

LEGAL CENTRES

U-turn on funding cuts

THE Federal Government has backflipped on planned funding cuts to community legal centres following an outcry from service providers, including those in Cairns.

Last month, the *Cairns Post* reported the city's community legal centre would be forced to cut vital services to people struggling with debt, family violence and employment issues.

The Government had flagged it was preparing to cut \$35 million from the sector, which would



have amounted to about \$2 million less across Queensland.

But yesterday, Attorney-General George Brandis (left) said \$39 million of funding for

community legal centres and \$16.7 million for indigenous legal services over three years would be contained in next month's Budget.

Queensland Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath welcomed the move, but said the uncertainty had already harmed vulnerable people.