

FEAR FACTOR

Community legal centres inundated by pleas for help

AN alarming number of elderly residents caring for their grandchildren are at risk of becoming victims of domestic violence from parents who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

LAURA NELSON reports, page 3

Legal centres inundated by desperate aged

THE number of elderly people on the Gold Coast desperately seeking help for family law issues has risen sharply since 2014, sparking an urgent call for more legal help for them.

Statistics released by the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre show in 2014-15, it helped 683 clients aged 50-64 and 256 of them were seeking help with family law. The centre also attracted 428 resi-

dents aged 65 and older with 88 of them needing help with family law.

Between January 2016 and 2017, the number of Gold Coasters, aged between 50 and 64, who were assisted by the centre, rose to 841. Of these, 422 were family law cases.

The centre also had 405 clients aged 65 and over and 109 wanted help with family law.

Meanwhile, Community Legal Centres Queensland is calling for

seniors' legal services to be expanded to help those most vulnerable in the community.

"In July the Commonwealth Government will cut almost 30 per cent of funding to community legal centres across Australia," a spokesman said. "We are calling on Malcolm Turnbull and George Brandis to reverse this decision to ensure

grandparents get the legal help they need."