

Logan DV video launched

A VIDEO to educate people about domestic and family violence was launched in Logan, in April last year, to combat significant budget cuts to community legal centres which provide assistance to victims of violence.

Developed by Logan District Police, the video was translated into eight languages predominant in Logan, where about 12.8 per cent of residents speak a language other than English.

The video was released as community legal centres anticipated federal government budget cuts of almost 30 per cent by 2017 – a move expected to impact services to help family violence victims.

South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre director Sandra Padgett told journal-

ist Cheryl Goodenough, at the time, her organisation had seen an increase in people asking for help.

"It is an unfortunate time to cut funding," she said.

The centre provides legal services to residents from Logan and neighbouring areas.

Ms Padgett quoted a Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services (QAILS) report which said requests for community le-

gal advice increased by 165 per cent between 2011 and 2015. Demand for support, representation and casework increased by 355 per cent, and for legal information by 219 per cent.

Communities Minister Shannon Fentiman, who launched the Logan DVD, said the QAILS report reit-

erated the large number of family violence victims supported by community legal centres.

"Once again, the Turnbull government is letting down those in the greatest need of help, right when they need it the most," she said.

"I have repeatedly called on the Turnbull government to do the right thing and reverse its harsh cuts to Community Legal Centres here in Queensland."

Community legal centres in Queensland helped 50,000 people in 2013-14, but turned away more than 80,000, the report said.

The video project, called *Open Doors. Act Now. Break the Cycle*, provides information on domestic violence, police involvement,

court processes and support services.

It was disseminated to the

culturally and linguistically diverse community through groups such as Access Community Services, MultiLink Services Incorporated and by Logan City Council.

An Attorney-General spokesman told the *Jimboomba Times* the government was making a substantial commitment of \$1.6 billion over the next five years to legal assistance services and was committed to increasing funding levels. "Funding beyond 30 June, 2017, will be considered as part of the budget process. Funding for legal assistance services is shared between the Australian and state and territory governments."