

# Robina legal centre misses out funding

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AN award-winning Gold Coast legal service has been snubbed for government funding yet again.

Despite running up an impressive list of gongs, including being named pro-bono legal centre of the year and community legal centre of the year, the Robina community Legal Centre still failed to rate a mention in the latest round of state government funding.

It comes as the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre received a desperately needed funding top-up.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Yvette D'Ath said the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre and Advice Bureau Inc would receive \$297,864 extra funding over 2017-2020 to help provide legal services to the Gold Coast community.

"This funding will go towards supporting legal services that assist with family law and family violence, which are two areas of law where demand for service is rapidly growing, especially in the community legal sector," Mrs D'Ath said.

"This means that the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre and Advice Bureau Inc now has the certainty they need to plan for future service delivery and support."

Robina Community Legal Centre founder Ross Lee said there appeared to be a policy of judging metro CLCs differently to regional ones.



Robina Community Legal Centre president Ross Lee.

"The Gold Coast has a similar population to Tasmania yet we are considered a non-metro centre and so the government only provides funding for one CLC," he said.

"That's not to criticise the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre who do a tremendous job. But all we are asking for is funds for a principal solicitor and an office co-ordinator.

"We get great support from the Gold Coast City Council, Bond and Griffith universities and more private philanthropists than people think."

Mr Lee said the centre was looking forward to a charity ball on October 28 to help provide much-needed funds.

"The ball is being held at the Marriott and the theme is Shaken Not Stirred. I encourage anyone who wants to make a booking, sponsor or donate to the auction or raffle to get in touch with the legal centre."