

Legal funding was temporary – D'Ath

ATTORNEY-General Yvette D'Ath has defended the funding cut to the Suncoast Legal Service saying money given to it for 2015-17 had been "temporary Commonwealth funding".

"Any funding provided in the 2017-20 agreements was done through an application process, a spokesperson for the Minister said.

"It was the Palaszczuk government that fought to reverse the cuts proposed to community legal centres by the Federal Government.

"Queensland now provides more than 60% of

funding to community legal centres compared to the Commonwealth's 40%."

However Ms D'Ath has been accused of "shameful hypocrisy" by Federal Fisher MP Andrew Wallace who said she had stripped 39% from the Coast budget, amounting to \$240,000.

"Attorney-General D'Ath was among the loudest voices calling on the Federal Government to allocate more funding for our Community Legal Centres. But now that the Commonwealth has provided an extra \$39 million

to support them, she has sold out Sunshine Coasters by denying us our fair share of that funding," Mr Wallace said.

"The Suncoast Community Legal Service fulfils an essential role in providing access to justice for our most vulnerable people."

Mr Wallace said in April this year the Federal Government had committed to an additional \$39 million in funding for Community Legal Centres to ensure no centre would need to lose out.