



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Community Legal Centres**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.43 pm): We are all very busy when we are in the House and we all have many functions that we attend throughout the day. I would like to follow on from the member for Southport and talk about the legal centres in our communities. From a quick count from this *Providing access to justice* brochure that was handed to me a short while ago from QAILS, the organisation that oversees 32 community centres in the state, it is obvious that there is a massive need for support for people who are falling on hard times in a legal sense. For example, QAILS tells us that they are providing support for people who need access to justice in relation to domestic and family violence, and of course we always have an ear to the ground listening for domestic and family violence. We heard today from community legal centres down on the Gold Coast that there has been a massive increase in the number of reports of family and domestic violence, and I think that tells us that we are doing our job well. We are getting the message out there that it is not good enough and therefore supporting people suffering from family and domestic violence to be brave enough to complain to someone who can give them that support.

Vulnerable young people, people with mental health issues and intellectual disability are all supported by legal centres right around the state. There are two on the Gold Coast, one of which is the Robina Community Legal Centre. It is unfunded at the moment, and they are looking forward to the next round of funding which I think is July next year. They saw 850 people last year on a shoestring budget of just \$10,000. Many hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of free legal advice is provided by professionals, and it aids young people who are in the legal profession to learn their trade in their volunteer work as well.

The member for Southport mentioned the other organisation that we saw here today, the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre: 3,256 clients over the last 12 months; 60 per cent have weekly incomes under \$500; 23 per cent are living in a sole parent family with dependent children; 42 per cent of clients are female; 34 per cent are not living in a family but living as a boarder or living alone et cetera. These people need our support. We all need—

*(Time expired)*