



SIGN HERE . . . Coordinator Tirrania Suhood with her 5000-signature petition.

Photo: WOLTER PEETERS

Secure funding support

By NICK SOON

FORMER students of Nirimba TAFE have leapt to the aid of an alcohol and drug services organisation facing a funding crisis.

The students gathered more than 5000 signatures supporting a petition to get permanent funding for Blacktown Alcohol and other Drugs Family Services (BADFS).

They handed the petition to Blacktown MP Paul Gibson last Wednesday.

BADFS president Lauren Harris said the organisation received support because of its good relationship with the community and because of its innovative programs.

The group, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, provides counselling and sup-

port for countless families affected by alcohol and drugs.

Coordinator Tirrania Suhood said BADFS had struggled for many years because of funding problems.

"Even though we got new funding for specific projects, it was always temporary," she said.

"We have to spend so much time looking for funding to continue the service and always face the possibility of it closing down."

Mr Gibson said he would speak to the ministers for health and community services about the requests.

He said the funding problem could be solved with adequate secured funding for a set period.

"I understand the college recently had to wait 17 weeks to get \$5000 for one of its projects," he said.