

+ Students petition for drug agency

A 5000-signature petition for more long-term funding for a vital Blacktown service was presented to Blacktown State Labor MP Paul Gibson last week.

The petition aims to get consistent funding for Blacktown Alcohol and other Drugs Family Services (BADFS).

The service receives \$125,000 every 12 months from the state community services and health departments, but an estimated \$350,000 is

needed to continue its vital work.

Signatures were collected by Nirimba TAFE community services students.

BADFS co-ordinator Tirrania Suhood applies for funding every year. The grants the organisation received barely paid for two full-time staff.

“Small non-government organisations are struggling,” she said.

The service also receives a small amount of donations and

Ms Suhood applies for other funding grants.

“There’s not enough money for services,” she said.

“We also have to pay rent and operating and program costs.”

Ms Suhood said more long-term funding would help staff cut waiting lists and provide more services for all families, including children.

Mr Gibson said he supported the need for consistent funding as it would help with long-term planning.



Tirrania Suhood hands the petition signed by TAFE students to Blacktown MP Paul Gibson
Photo: ANN MORAN