

Service funds to continue

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, agreed yesterday to give the NSW Aboriginal Legal Service \$11,000 a week until the end of the year, to enable it to keep running till then.

The provision of further Federal funds beyond this date will be the subject of continuing negotiations between the service and

the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Senator Cavanagh said yesterday after a meeting with eight representatives from the service in Canberra that an officer from his department would go to Sydney immediately to discuss the service's budget for the remainder of the financial year and other outstanding matters.

The Minister cut off funds to the service last week because of alleged deficiencies in accounting for expenditure but later agreed to meet representatives of the service to discuss the issue.

One matter that was not cleared up at yesterday's meeting was the question of outstanding debts which the service incurred in June 30 this year amounting to \$43,000 for barristers' fees and other services.

Senator Cavanagh said he had promised during the meeting to decide by the end of the week whether he would provide funds to meet these debts.

But in an interview after the meeting the president of the service, Mr Paul Coe, said the Minister promised Federal funds for them.

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