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MP takes aim at PM's indigenous adviser

A senior indigenous parliamentarian has taken the Prime Minister's key adviser to task for failing to criticise Government funding cuts to Aboriginal legal aid.

WA State Labor frontbencher Ben Wyatt, says Warren Mundine is using his position as chairman of Tony Abbott's indigenous advisory council to

defend the Government.

Mr Mundine argues it is unrealistic to expect indigenous affairs spending to be immune to budget cuts.

Nor could he cast a "force field" to exempt Aboriginals from the broader budget agenda.

Mr Wyatt agrees, but says he expects Mr Mundine to remind

the Government of the real consequences of its decisions.

"I worry that he sees his role more as a defender of the Government than an advocate for Aboriginal Australians," he wrote in *The Australian* yesterday. To cut funding from legal aid risked the obvious – sending more Aboriginal people to prison.