Lawyers volunteer their skills and time to help those in need

Pro bono lawyers working with the Law Access service have delivered more than $3.5 million dollars of legal assistance since the organisation commenced operations on 1 July 2015.

The lawyers in the Law Access pro bono network volunteer their skills and time to assist some of the most financially disadvantaged and vulnerable people from all over WA.

An end of year function hosted by law firm MinterEllison on 4 December 2017, recognised and celebrated the pro bono lawyers who assisted Law Access applicants throughout the year. Guest speaker Attorney-General The Hon. John Quigley MLA commended the valuable contribution made by pro bono lawyers in WA to the broader community.

Law Access operates as a safety net of last resort for those who are not eligible for assistance from Legal Aid or community legal centres.

Law Access assesses applications for pro bono assistance, matching successful applicants with lawyers who take the matters for no fee or for a reduced, deferred fee.

Law Access Chief Executive Officer, Dominique Hansen said "Now in its third year of operation, Law Access is building pro bono culture within the WA legal profession. This benefits the community as a whole."

"Law Access assists some of Western Australia's most vulnerable people. For example, currently legal assistance in family law is not meeting community needs and demand for pro bono assistance in this area is growing. Family law is an important area where the involvement of lawyers can make the difference between whether a vulnerable individual has access to justice, or not."

Dominique Hansen added "The pro bono lawyers work in civil, criminal, and family law and come from large and small firms, as well as from the bar. They generously volunteer their knowledge, skills and time because they strongly believe that lawyers should give back and help the community."

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