

WA LEGAL COMMUNITY TUNES IN AND STEPS UP TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

At 7:30am on National Pro Bono Day, 19 May 2020 the Hon. Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia will launch the first Virtual Law Access Walk for Justice on Facebook. Hundreds of pro bono lawyers, law students and legal support staff will tune in to a special Event Podcast and step out to promote Equal Access to Justice in Western Australia.

In previous years the Walk for Justice has taken place along the foreshore between Point Fraser and the Bell Tower. This year due to Covid 19 participants are walking the 4.4 kilometre route in their own neighbourhoods or in parks near where they work. Although physically distanced; participants will join together by posting progress and pictures online across social media using the hashtag #W4J2020

Event participants are also raising much needed funds for Law Access, Western Australia's pro bono legal referral service.

The Event Podcast includes interviews with pro bono lawyers and members of the judiciary about pro bono work, inspiring access to justice stories and tips for unwinding and maintaining optimism in these challenging times. The podcast can be downloaded here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-427622885-318573623/law-access-walk-2020>

Law Access CEO Dominique Hansen said

We have been blown away by the generosity of our supporters in these uncertain times. Thanks to the generosity of a donor matching commitment by the McCusker Charitable Foundation the total funds raised today will be doubled. The much needed funds will enable Law Access to continue to match vulnerable applicants with pro bono lawyers.

This year we will have 21 prominent Event Ambassadors walking with us including:

- The Hon. Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia
- The Hon John Quigley MLA Attorney General and Minister for Commerce
- The Hon. Justice Gail Sutherland, Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia
- The Hon. Justice Janine Pritchard, President of the State Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- The Hon. Justice Jennifer Smith, Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia
- The Hon. Julie Wager, Chief Judge of the District Court of Western Australia
- The Hon. Judge Christopher Kendall, of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia
- Matthew Howard SC President of the Australian Bar Association
- Presidents of the four legal professional associations
- Professors and Deans of Law and
- Law student leaders.

– ENDS –

For comment please contact:

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