

PRO BONO LAWYERS STEP IN TO HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE

At 7:30am on National Pro Bono Day, 18 May 2021 the Hon. Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia launched and lead the 2021 Law Access Walk for Justice. Hundreds of pro bono lawyers from community legal centres government and the private profession, law students and legal support, gathered to promote Equal Access to Justice in Western Australia.

The walkers followed the traditional foreshore route, between Point Fraser and the Bell Tower. They were “virtually” accompanied by supporters from around Australia including Albany, Karijini National Park, Sydney, Melbourne and Bundaberg.

The beginning of the walk was livestreamed on Facebook. The ‘virtual’ supporters were invited to tune in to the 2021 event podcast, while completing the 4.4 kilometre walk wherever they may be - one team will be walking in the Karijini National Park!

“Virtual” walkers have been sharing their pictures on social media, using #W4J21

The Event Podcast provides a clear picture of the most pressing access to justice issues in WA. The Hon. Robert French AC former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and pro bono lawyers Eliza Fitzgerald and Hamish Glenister, provide moving personal stories of the impact that obtaining access to justice has had for their clients.

The podcast can be downloaded here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-427622885-318573623/law-access-walk-2021>

Event participants raised \$117,015 to help sustain Law Access, Western Australia’s pro bono legal referral service.

Law Access CEO Dominique Hansen said

The pro bono legal community has thrown its financial and practical support behind the profession’s pro bono legal referral service. Thanks to the generosity of a donor matching commitment of up to \$50,000 by the McCusker Charitable Foundation, the total funds raised today are higher than ever before, enabling Law Access to provide pro bono lawyers to vulnerable persons in need of legal assistance.

This year the prominent Event Ambassadors joining us include:

- The Hon. Robert French AC, Former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia
- The Hon. Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia
- The Hon. John Quigley MLA, Attorney General of Western Australia.
- 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
- Chief Magistrate Steven Heath
- Dr Ben Gauntlett Disability Discrimination Commissioner
- Matthew Howard SC President of the Australian Bar Association
- Jocelyne Boujos President of the Law Society of Western Australia,
- Linda Richardson, President of the Family Lawyers Association of WA,
- Debra Zanella, President of WACOSS
- Corina Martin, Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Family Law Service
- Professors and Deans of Law and
- Law student leaders.

– ENDS –

For comment please contact:

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