

Legal profession walk to support pro bono aid for those in need

DO JUSTICE TO CAUSE



Walk ambassador Chief Justice Peter Quinlan, right, with Law Access board of directors chair Greg McIntyre on the annual walk.

EXCLUSIVE JESSICA EVENSEN

Members of WA's legal community are set to swap their robes for exercise gear as they take part in an annual charity walk.

Lawyers, judges and other members of WA's legal profession will take part in the annual Law Access Walk for Justice on May 21 to raise money for people needing pro bono legal aid.

The Walk for Justice, which is celebrating its ninth year, is a 2km walk through the Perth CBD as part of Law Week.

Law Week — organised by the Law Society of WA, with Law Access as its charitable arm — is an annual celebration of the legal profession, which places a spotlight on issues affecting access to justice in the community.

Last year's event raised \$170,000.

"Community need for free legal service continues to grow and so we encourage all members of the legal profession to take part in this walk and to make pro bono work a part of their practice," Law Access chief executive Alana Dowling said.

This year, former WA governor Malcolm McCusker — who is a

patron of Law Access — and the McCusker Charitable Foundation will match up to \$50,000 raised by walkers.

The Walk for Justice comes as the Old Law Court Museum celebrates 50 years as a museum.

The 187-year-old property next to the Supreme Court is the CBD's oldest building and was used as a court from 1837 to 1964.

"A lot of really important trials and cases happened here . . . but there was also a public gallery and a school as well so it was real-

ly the centre of social, civic and legal life," museum curator Megan Shaw said.

"This place has been described as the genesis of law in WA and it's really the place where culture shifts from being thousands of generations of Aboriginal (law), then to Colonial law, then to WA law after that. It's a really important place because we can understand where we are as a society and how things are in our current cultural fabric . . . it all really dates back to this building."



Old Law Court Museum curator Megan Shaw.
Picture: Jessica Evensen

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