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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Australian lawyers to Walk for Justice on National Pro Bono Day**

The Walk for Justice is the main event of National Pro Bono Day, Monday 17 May 2010. This will be Australia's second National Pro Bono Day and marks the start of National Law Week.

The Walk for Justice will occur simultaneously in four state capitals at 7am on Monday morning and also in London and New York. It is a fundraiser for the pro bono clearing houses and everybody is encouraged to register to walk by following the links below. Registration is just \$15 per person and \$5 for students.

In England last year, 4,000 walkers raised over £380,000 at the 5th London Legal sponsored walk to support legal advice agencies. In Australia, the sister event *Walk for Justice* in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year raised over \$30,000.

National Pro Bono Day was first initiated by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre in 2009 and aims to celebrate the outstanding pro bono commitment of the legal profession in ensuring access to justice for marginalised and disadvantaged Australians.

Director of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre, John Corker said, "It was developed as part of Law Week to highlight one of the activities we as lawyers have to celebrate – our unselfish giving back to the communities in which we exist." It's a day when the legal profession should feel proud of their significant pro bono contribution".

Some firms will release reports of their pro bono activities for the past year - others will have a lunch to thank those lawyers who have made a valuable pro bono contribution to their community.

Links to those wanting to register to walk or simply to donate are below.

**Melbourne – PILCH (VIC)**

This walk will be led by the Hon Chris Maxwell QC, President of the Court of Appeal of Victoria

**Sydney – PILCH (NSW)**

This walk will be led by the Hon Robert McClelland, MP, Commonwealth Attorney-General and Hon John Hatzistergos, Attorney General of New South Wales

**Brisbane - QPILCH**

This walk will be led by the Hon Paul de Jersey AC QC, Chief Justice of Queensland and the Hon Cameron Dick, Attorney General of Queensland

**Adelaide – JusticeNet SA**

This walk will be led by the Hon John Doyle AC QC, Chief Justice of South Australia

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Both the US and the UK have a National Pro Bono *Week*. The UK National Pro Bono Week has occurred every year since 2003. The US had its first national pro bono week last year.

Since Australia already has a National Law Week (unlike either the UK or the US), the celebration of pro bono work has been incorporated as the first day of National Law Week

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