



## NATIONAL PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTRE

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### Media Release

#### Lawyers walk for justice

Lawyers in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia will “Walk for Justice” at 7am on Monday 19 May 2008 to coincide with similar walks being held in London and various other UK locations.

Last year, the London Legal Support Trust Walk, now in its fourth year, raised over £200,000. Each year the amount raised by the walk has more than doubled.

The inaugural “Walk for Justice” in Australia is a fundraising event for the Public Interest Law Clearing Houses. The PILCHs meet the needs of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and community support organisations, by facilitating their access to pro bono legal assistance.

Lawyers who walk will pay a registration fee and obtain sponsorship from their colleagues and the community.

According to Amy Kilpatrick, Director of PILCH (NSW), the walk represents a chance for lawyers to participate in a national and international fundraising event and assist social justice initiatives.

“Forget the half-marathon - this is something all legal professionals can do that will make a real difference to the community. I strongly encourage all legal professionals to participate in this grassroots event which will no doubt grow into a landmark on the legal calendar.”

Cristy Dieckmann, Services Coordinator at QPILCH, explained: “The walk also represents a great opportunity for lawyers to contribute to legal services for disadvantaged clients by a means other than direct pro bono work, and for the community to facilitate legal assistance for disadvantaged people, such as those who are homeless or experiencing extreme debt.”

Michael McKiterick, Lawyer at PILCH (Vic), acknowledged that people in Melbourne may find it harder to get out of bed but said that they would be rewarded for braving the cold. “It might be a chilly Melbourne morning but there will be a warm cup of coffee for all participants to enjoy at the finish-line before heading into the office.”

The Walk for Justice has been endorsed by the Presidents of the Law Society of NSW, Hugh Macken, the Law Society of Queensland, Megan Mahon, and the Law Institute of Victoria, Tony Burke. “As solicitors, we need to make sure all members of the community have equal access to justice. This initiative aims to address legal access issues and we encourage all solicitors who are able to participate in this event to do so,” Macken said.

The walks will be led by senior lawyers and judges and will pass by some of the significant legal landmarks in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Chief Justice de Jersey will lead the walk in Queensland, which will start at the quadrangle at the Law Courts complex on George Street and will involve a 5km walk along the Brisbane River.

In Victoria, the walk will commence at Parliament House in Melbourne, and will continue along the Yarra River and back up to the Supreme Court.

In New South Wales, the walk will commence at the War Memorial in Sydney and continue through Hyde Park and the Botanic Gardens before concluding at the Supreme Court of NSW.

In South Australia, the walk will pass by some of the significant legal landmarks in the city. Adelaide's 5km walk begins at the Elder park rotunda, along the River Torrens and back, before passing through Adelaide University and terminating in the courts precinct.

Law firms and chambers are encouraged to get walking teams together for the event.

Media inquiries to:

Brisbane: Cristy Dieckmann on 0421 852 515

Sydney: Amy Kilpatrick on 0430 368 336

Melbourne: Kristen Hilton on 0438 522 911

Adelaide: Paula Sterling on 0415 746 889