



Queensland Legal Walk
Forecourt of the QEII Courts of Law
Tuesday 12 May 2015, 8.00am

The Hon Tim Carmody
Chief Justice

Queensland Legal Walk

Good morning everyone.

Thank you Lucy, not only for your introduction, but for all of the time and effort that you have invested and *continue* to invest into QPILCH and its social objectives.

I note the presence of the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and the Honourable Ian Walker MP, Shadow Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Industrial Relations and Arts.

Also, thank you to all of the QPILCH staff and volunteers who are here bright and early to assist with the walk.

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land on which we are all standing this morning and pay respect to their Elders past and present. I also acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play both within the legal profession and our wider community.

This is my first walk as Patron of QPILCH.

I extend my wholehearted thanks to each and every one of today's participants. With the mornings gradually getting colder, it is not easy leaving the warmth of your homes – especially for a 6.30am start. But your actions recognise those in our community who may not be fortunate enough to have the warmth of a home this morning.



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Your support in raising much needed funds demonstrates an awareness on the part of Queensland members of the legal profession about the importance of contributing to the improvement of access to practical justice in our state.

The importance of the work done by this incredibly worthwhile and noble organisation – so committed to the provision of pro bono legal services – cannot be overstated. Pro bono work is essential for achieving true access to justice in Queensland. We do not want a society where justice has a price tag and people are ultimately left on the outside looking in. Access to justice is a fundamental tenet of the rule of law and has accordingly been enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which states that “all are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law”.

There are many people within our community stranded on the fringes of the legal system due to different forms of disadvantage or mental health concerns. Their inability to access legal services will, in most cases, only exacerbate their already difficult or burdensome personal circumstances.

QPILCH has already contributed enormously, through their years of tireless work and dedication, to the betterment of the situations of so many who have fallen victim to disadvantage. And it goes without saying that none of this would be possible without the combined efforts of the legal profession who devote their time, resources and skills to pro bono work.

I also congratulate QPILCH on opening another office in Townsville last year. This will ensure that the fruits of your commitment extend to the needs of those living in Queensland’s more regional and remote areas.

Once more, I thank and commend all of you for your efforts this morning. I encourage you to continue to support organisations like QPILCH in their mission to improve access to justice here in Queensland.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your day.