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## MEDIA RELEASE



### ‘Ridiculous Laws’ takes a lighter look at unfairness

#### ‘Ridiculous Laws’ – a benefit gig for Justice Connect

hosted by Julian Morrow

featuring Tom Ballard, Dr Justine Rogers and Prof Gillian Triggs  
Giant Dwarf, 18 May 7pm

Did you know it’s illegal to ‘collect or remove’ bat poo in WA, on pain of a year in prison? Or that SA’s Law of Safe Fridges (1966) prevents the sale of certain large refrigerators? These are just two of Australia’s most ridiculous laws. How about marriage being “the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others”?

Justice Connect has recruited some of Australia’s best satirical and political minds to take a lighter look at some of our sillier rules, as well as those that will likely appear ridiculous in years to come, which are having a real effect on people today.

“Comedians, man-buns and the Madden Brothers are allowed to be ridiculous, but our legal system isn’t”, says comedian Tom Ballard, fresh from his award-winning turn at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

“Ridiculous laws can be OK if they’re just absurd or funny, usually something to do with a piece of fruit and intrusive government surveillance. But, others are ridiculous because of their deeply harmful impact on people’s lives.”, says [Dr. Justine Rogers](#), legal ethics lecturer at UNSW Law and sometime comedian known for her [TED Talk about TED Talks](#).

Joining them on stage will be [Julian Morrow](#), of the Chaser and ABC’s The Checkout, and [Professor Gillian Triggs](#), President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and patron of Justice Connect, bringing her wealth of experience to proceedings.

While having a laugh at some of the stranger rules and regulations still on the books, the panel will also get stuck into some meatier fare, relating to asylum seekers, transgender children, victims of domestic violence and our right to protest.

“We want to take a lighter look at these issues without shying away from their complexity,” said Fiona McLeay, CEO of Justice Connect – a charity that aims to bring pro bono legal help to those facing disadvantage.

“It’s important that these discussions can be taken out of the legal world, and held up to examination for the public, but retaining a legal perspective is also necessary. I’m hopeful that these Ridiculous Laws events can help move the debate along, while entertaining people in the process,” McLeay said.

**Ridiculous Laws – Giant Dwarf Theatre, Redfern, Thursday 18 May, 7-8.45pm, tickets at [www.giantdwarf.com.au/events/ridiculous-laws/](http://www.giantdwarf.com.au/events/ridiculous-laws/)**

**All proceeds will support Justice Connect’s work to help vulnerable people who need legal help.**

*[Justice Connect](#) helps people facing disadvantage - and the community groups who support them - to access free legal assistance. We harness the power of pro bono legal help to create a fairer and more just world.*

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