

Social justice community invited to Walk for Justice to celebrate 640,000+ probono hours donated by legal sector every year

On Tuesday 17 May, National Pro Bono Day, the social justice community will pull on their joggers to participate in the Walk for Justice NSW 2022, a virtual walk designed to celebrate the positive impact that legal pro bono work has on social justice in Australia.

Run by the <u>National Justice Project</u> and the <u>Refugee Advice and Casework Service</u>, the Walk for Justice NSW 2022 invites members of the legal sector and supporters of social justice to enjoy a walk around their workplace or local area in celebration of the <u>640,000+ pro bono hours donated</u> by the legal sector to social justice every year.

As part of Walk for Justice NSW 2022, participants can donate to, or raise funds for, the National Justice Project and/or the Refugee Advice and Casework Service.

The National Justice Project, a human rights legal centre working to eradicate systemic discrimination, contributes nearly 19,000 hours of pro bono work to social justice every year while representing their courageous clients in legal cases and inquests.

The Refugee Advice & Casework Service, which provides free legal advice, assistance and representation for asylum seekers in Australia, is supported by 11,600 pro bono hours donated by partnering lawyers who are passionate about justice for refugees and people seeking asylum.

All funds donated to the National Justice Project and the Refugee Advice and Casework Service will go toward the organisations' frontline: providing critical pro bono legal advice and representation to people experiencing discrimination and disadvantage in Australia.

Senior Solicitor at RACS Arif Hussein said the pro bono hours donated to RACS enables them to provide legal representation to more refugees and people seeking asylum.

"Pro bono work has a tremendous impact on our reach at RACS," said Hussein.

"The support and sheer number of hours we receive from generous law firms and barristers is vital to helping as many refugees as we can. Pro bono support helps us protect and promote the rights of people seeking asylum in Australia on a greater scale. For this, we are truly thankful."

CEO of the National Justice Project George Newhouse said the support of pro bono lawyers makes the work of our organisation and many other not for profits possible.

"The strategic legal representation we provide for our clients is pro bono, so we're familiar with and passionate about the impact of pro bono legal work in Australia," Newhouse said.



"In many of the cases where we and other not for profit organisation have created positive change, we'd had the incredible support of pro bono lawyers who are as passionate as us about using the law creatively for social justice – we're very grateful for this."

The National Justice Project and the Refugee Advice & Casework Service invite people to join this year's Walk for Justice NSW on Tuesday 17 May and access information and resources at www.justice.org.au/2022-nsw-walk-for-justice.

Walk for Justice NSW 2022 is supported by Thomson Reuters.

For more information, quotes and interviews: Lizzy Keen <u>lizzyk@justice.org.au</u> 0451 730 566