

Lawyers take steps for free services

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CAIRNS lawyers will walk the Esplanade today to help raise funds to meet growing demand for free legal help and advice.

The Far North silks join hundreds of their colleagues also taking part in the annual

Queensland Legal Walk in seven cities across the state.

The profession is raising money for LawRight, the non-profit community legal centre which coordinates pro bono work by volunteer lawyers.

LawRight senior lawyer Renee Lees said more Cairns

individuals and families were seeking help than the local centre could manage.

"LawRight and other legal assistance services in Cairns are facing growing demand from vulnerable local families seeking basic legal help to address things like spiralling

debt, family violence and homelessness," Ms Lees said.

LawRight operates free legal clinics at Cairns homeless

shelters and health services "with a focus on improving the health and wellbeing of Cairns families who are doing it tough," Ms Lees said.