



**MEDIA RELEASE**

28 March 2018

## Cancellation of 2018 Justice Awards

The Board of Governors of the Law and Justice Foundation has announced the cancellation of the Justice Awards for 2018. The annual Justice Awards is an important event on the law and justice calendar in NSW which brings together the judiciary, government, the profession, community organisations and ordinary citizens to recognise the work of individuals and organisations in improving access to justice in NSW.

The primary reason behind the cancellation is the uncertainty regarding the Foundation's funding. Since 2012, the PPF allocation to the Foundation has progressively declined to a point below the minimum level our Board considers necessary to fulfil our statutory mandate. In the past, the Foundation has drawn on its reserves to make up the difference between the PPF allocation and that minimum level but after 30 June this year that is no longer possible. As a result, the Board has been forced to cancel the Justice Awards for 2018.

The Foundation thanks our highly valued award sponsors: Department of Justice NSW, Law Society of NSW, Australian Pro Bono Centre, NSW Bar Association, Community Legal Centres NSW and State Library of NSW. We also extend our thanks to our long-term sponsors from the profession: Ashurst, Baker & McKenzie, Chalk & Behrendt, Clayton Utz, Gilbert + Tobin, Herbert Smith Freehills, King & Wood Mallesons and Minter Ellison and Seven Wentworth Selbourne. The Director of the Foundation, Geoff Mulherin, said: "It is thanks to support from the profession that many members of the community have been able to attend the Justice Awards to celebrate the achievements of those working to improve access to justice for the people of NSW."

We are hopeful that with adequate funding, we can again conduct the Awards in 2019.

### **About the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales**

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is an independent, statutory, not-for-profit organisation established in 1967 to advance the fairness and equity of the justice system, and to improve access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people. Through our research, the Foundation identifies legal need, and what strategies work to address that legal need, to support the planning and delivery of the most effective legal assistance services.

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