

Aboriginal Community Police Officer Aberto "Bert" Cubillo passed away in April 2008 after a long battle with cancer. I was not a close friend of Bert but I knew of his struggles with cancer and his dedication to his work, which I still marvel over today. I was however a friend to his wife, Teri Cubillo who was, and remains a close friend of my wife, having met each other in their sporting endeavours and mutual friends outside the Police Force. It was through these relationships that I knew their three young daughters Demi, Abbey and Tyla, now young ladies.

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# Being a Police Legator

by Tony Fuller

**Like most** in the Police Force I contributed to NT Police Legacy each pay not fully comprehending what I was really contributing too. I never expected that it would have such an impact on me or my relationship with a fellow officer's family the way it has. When Bert passed away, I was asked to have a talk with Teri and explain to her the functions of NT Police Legacy and that she was to appoint someone in the Police Force as the Legator to her and her daughters. I was not expecting her response when Teri asked me to take on this role and, to be honest, I was quite shocked in that I was not a close workmate of Bert's and very apprehensive not knowing what it really entailed and whether I was up to the responsibility of taking on such an important role in supporting and mentoring their daughters. I am quite honoured and glad she had the faith in me to take on the role.

I could not have asked for a better family to support. Each of the girls are amazing in their own right and Teri is such a strong devoted parent who is quite inspiring to those who know her. I think I get more out of the relationship keeping an eye on the girls and how they are growing up than they do from me. More recently I got to watch Abbey on the internet at five

in the morning as she represented Australia in the Women's Under 17 Basketball Championships when they won the world title. Whilst a great and proud moment for all, it's the other opportunities you get catching up and having a chat to see how they are travelling that are rewarding in themselves.

NT Police Legacy has provided support to the girls in a number of ways over the years however Teri has never asked for support and in fact I get quite frustrated and tired of reminding her that we are here to assist, such is the strength of her and her girls. To me being a Legator is not about being a replacement for or reminder of a missing parent, it is simply being a close friend to the family and a gentle reminder to them that they have a bigger family out there who will offer and provide support to them if they need it. The best thing as a Legator is you know that the support is there and you can ensure the family receives it, if they need it.

My message is don't think of your payroll deduction to NT Police Legacy as just another deduction or a donation. Think of it as paying a gift forward to our wider Police family and pray your family never needs it but be comfortable in the knowledge that if it is needed, the support will be there. —

Tony Fuller and the Fuller and Cubillo families



## From Teri Cubillo

What does the family think about having a NTPL Legator? All the Cubillo girls really appreciate having a Legator like Tony. He has always contacted us making sure he congratulates us on any success, checks if we are all going ok and letting us know to contact him if we need anything. He and his family have become part of our family. They are people we are comfortable with and enjoy their interest in us. We see them around Darwin and at sporting events and always have a chat. Having a person like Tony has made us still feel a part of the Police.