

# Tibute to Barbara Bradshaw

by The Hon John Elferink MLA

Thursday 23 October 2014

Mr ELFERINK (former Leader of Government Business): Mr Deputy Speaker, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.



It is with great regret that I acknowledge the life and work of Barbara Bradshaw (née Tully) who passed away recently after a long and courageous battle with cancer. I acknowledge the presence of Robert Bradshaw, Barbara's husband, in the gallery today.

Prior to her untimely passing, Barbara was a long time Darwin resident coming to the Territory in 1982, and a well-respected and dedicated member of the Territory's legal profession. She was formerly a long-term employee of the Department of Law, which is now the Department of Attorney-General and Justice, where she was at various times a policy lawyer, the Deputy Master of the Supreme Court, Registrar of Companies, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commissioner and Registrar of Credit Unions and Building Societies.

Outside the public sector, Barbara also served as the general manager of the Traditional Credit Union. In this role she showed not only a passion for helping Indigenous people in remote areas to access banking services, but also to a wider passion for improving the situation of Indigenous people in remote

areas more generally such as the availability of fairly priced, healthy food in communities.

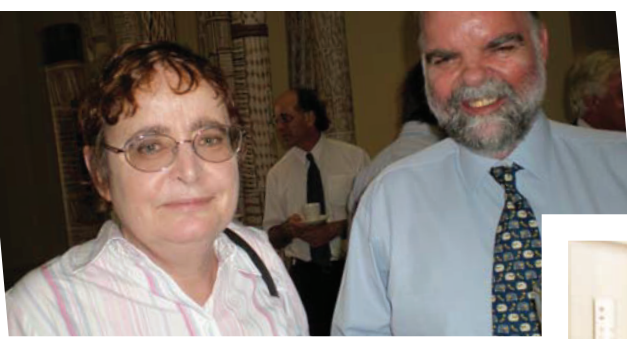
Barbara was also well-known for her capacity for hard work, supportive leadership and sound policy advice. She was instrumental in shaping significant legislative reforms, many of which continue to impact on the Territory and legal profession today and will continue to do so into the future. Her most recent professional role was as Director of Legislative Reform at the Department of Children and Families. Barbara also oversaw the transition of the NT in 1986 from the out-dated Companies Act from the 1960s to the modern National Companies and Security Scheme.

From 2003 to 2011 Barb served as the CEO of the Law Society. In this role she provided much guidance and support to practitioners and the community, and was instrumental in the development of the National Legal Practitioner Regulation Reforms. It was in these circumstances that I first had dealings with Barbara as an adviser to the Leader of the Opposition after I came to Darwin, returning from Alice Springs after eight years in the Legislative Assembly there.



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Territory Breast Cancer Incorporated and lobbied strong and hard for the Alan Walker Cancer Centre.

Barb was many things. She was clever, funny, tenacious, eccentric, loyal. She will be sadly missed by her many friends, her colleagues in Darwin and across Australia including in her hometown of Bathurst. I know that many Territorians and former Territorians made their way to Bathurst for her recent funeral and to celebrate her life.

Barbara is survived by her husband Robert, her daughter Mary and her mother Judith Tully. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them.

I could not imagine what it is to lose a loved one particularly to cancer, particularly one that I spent so many years with and the very thought of losing my wife leaves me almost struggling for breath. My deep and heartfelt commiserations go to Robert and his family and I will remember Barbara and Robert and the family members in my prayers. God rest her soul. ●

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Barbara always had the interests of smaller jurisdictions, particularly the Northern Territory, at heart and always strived to make sure that the push for national consistency did not come at the expense of the Territory. She was highly regarded as a source of reliable and sound policy input at the national level. In addition, she was an accessible and supportive mentor to many young lawyers.

As you can see from this long list of achievements, Mrs Bradshaw's professional contribution to the Territory, particularly to the Territory legal and financial regulation and statute book, has been significant.

In her personal life, she was a devoted and loving mother to her daughter Mary, a loving wife to her husband Robert, and trusted and loyal friend to many. She loved nothing better than catching up with good friends and colleagues over lunch. She was a passionate supporter of the provision of cancer services to Territorians in the Territory and held the role of President of the Northern