

# Sarah Jane Witham

Born 4<sup>th</sup> May 1980 Passed 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

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It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the sudden loss of Sarah Witham, our friend and colleague.

Sarah was a 'born and bred' Territorian lawyer. She was born on 4 May 1980 at the old Darwin Hospital at Myilly Point to parents Rachel and Garry Chin, and was given the Chinese name 'Chin Oi Wah'. Sarah's mother says that Sarah lived up to the 'Wah wah' bit as her parents spent many hours rocking the baby or going on short trips to get her to sleep.

Sarah completed primary school at Parap Primary, and secondary school at St Brigid's College in Western Australia, as well as Sanderson and Darwin High Schools and Casuarina Senior College. Sarah was self-motivated, dedicated and determined. In her year, Sarah was ranked in the top 20 students in the NT. From 1999 to 2002, she studied for a Bachelor of Laws at Northern Territory University, and in 2003 Sarah joined Morgan and Buckley, as it was then known, as an Articled Clerk. In 2004 Sarah was admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

Following her admission, Sarah commenced with the Northern Territory Government in Policy and Analyst roles in Treasury in the Territory Revenue Office, Financial Management Group, and in the NT Superannuation Office.

In 2010, we welcomed Sarah to the Legal Policy Division of then Department of Justice.

While in Legal Policy, Sarah was involved in a number of significant reforms, most notably the introduction of Advance Personal Plans with the *Advance Personal Planning Act 2013*, and the recent review of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992*.

Sarah was a perceptive and thoughtful colleague who always showed a sense of fairness in how her peers were treated. Sarah was meticulously organised, and while she was a quiet achiever, she made the office a more vibrant and inclusive place. She also had a large range of bright fashionable dresses that were openly admired by a number of women in the office. She did share her secret of where to buy some of her dresses with a lucky few.

Sarah leaves behind her family, especially her two beautiful children, Ethan and Ila, to whom she was devoted, and her two golden retrievers Aspen and Pascoe.

***Sarah will be sadly missed by the Legal Policy team.*** ■