

Legacy Youth Ambassador is determined to give back

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by Tom Threadingham **USE THIS CONTENT**

Legacy Brisbane and Sunshine Coast 2017 Youth Ambassador, Brianna Anderson.

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THE groundswell of love and support throughout one of Brianna Anderson's toughest moments in life has her determined to pay the goodwill forward.

In 2002, when Brianna was six, her father Richard Anderson was diagnosed with early onset dementia, due to a military-related concussion.

Mr Anderson had served in the Australian Army for 21-and-a-half years, which included four-and-a-half years with the SAS Regiment.

He was moved into a nursing home in 2007 when Brianna was in Year 6.

In 2014, her father died after his long battle with dementia.

During what were tough times for Brianna and her family, comfort was found in the support from Legacy.

The group stayed close by and helped with finances, schooling and sent Brianna and her sister on yearly youth camps.

She was even one of the 75 Legacy youths to attend the Pozieres study tour of France and Belgium.

The selfless support has left an indelible mark on the now 21-year-old, who has made it her mission to return the favour.

Brianna is Legacy Brisbane and Sunshine Coast's 2017 Youth Ambassador.

The latest role has continued her proactive involvement with the organisation, being selected as a Legacy Youth Leader in 2015 and regularly volunteering.

"I feel like not growing up with a dad Legacy have sort of, they haven't replaced him, but they've been able to help there," she said.

"Legacy has always been there for me and always been so supportive and have given me so many opportunities in life which have been absolutely incredible.

"I'm sure dad would have been so thankful for everything that Legacy have done for me and my family."

Brianna said she was compelled to support the organisation that had done so much for her.

She even aspires to one day become a Legatee, and help other families deal with similar situations.

"I'd love to have a family that I can support through Legacy and to be able to share my story with them to show them where I've got to today through Legacy," she said.

During Legacy Week this year, Brianna will be walking the Kokoda Trail to honour the memory of her father.

She urged the community to get behind Legacy, and to support the organisation looking after families going through traumatic times.

"Legacy will always need people's support, whether it's through them being a volunteer or through monetary donations," she said.

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"They will always need the support of people because there is always more families becoming a part of Legacy."

To help Legacy continue caring, find out about becoming a Legatee by calling toll free on 1800 534 229, emailing info@legacybrisbane.org.au or visiting www.legacy.com.au/Legatees



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