

Victim Impact Statement – Peter E Russell

I am the brother of John Russell, who was tragically murdered in November 1989. He will always be remembered to me as a loving, caring brother and friend. He was the most caring soul anyone could meet. As a single parent, he helped me raise my son who was 12 years of age at the time of his death. We resided in the family home at Bondi for all our lives. After our mothers passing, we both took care of our grandfather who was diabetic for several years. Already at a tragic time in my family's life with the loss of my grandfather four weeks prior, the loss of another loved one in my brother further devastated myself, my son and my partner. The grief was hard to take.

At the time of my brothers passing, he was looking forward to moving to the Hunter valley to build a home on land the family purchased years prior. He would have lived next to Dad and together they would have built a home for everybody. My father eventually did build a house there, but it never turned out the way they had envisioned. Dad eventually sold the land and moved to Cessnock. The loss of John surely led to his early onset dementia and he never got over the grief.

As a father to five children and husband to a loving wife, it has been heart wrenching to know that my younger children will never get to meet someone who could have taught them so much about morals, life, history, art, music and anything in between. They have heard of this great man but will never get to meet him. I am very fortunate that when my mother was terminally ill with chronic renal failure that she did not have to live through the tragedy of the loss of her father and son in five weeks. For that I am grateful.