

Vikki Riley's last case. Vikki's last telephone message to me from Darwin before she died was, "I can't find Jamie. He is supposed to be in court today." Vikki was run down and killed on a Darwin road a few days later on September 10th, 2012. She had prepared a case against NT Police who had assaulted and run down an Aboriginal man (see story below). BD

NT News, January 10, 2012.

COP THAT. Court hears police officers punched man, then ran him down with their wagon [Page 1].

CLAIMS MAN HIT, RUN DOWN BY POLICE PAIR [Page 2].

By Meagan Dillon, Court Reporter

Two Territory police officers allegedly punched a man in the face before running him down with their wagon after he tried to escape from protective custody, a court has heard.

Constable Sean Holmes and Sandor Bolgar were charged with serious breaches of discipline under the Police Administration Act in January last year. The NT Supreme Court heard the police officers took Jamie Huddleston into protective custody after a complaint of domestic violence in April 2010. But Mr Huddleston made a complaint to the NT Ombudsman claiming the two officers punched him in the face and were slamming on the brakes "heavily" causing him to smash his head against the side of the wagon's cage. They also allegedly chased him and hit him with the police car after he tried to escape their care.

The court heard that the police wagon was taken to a workshop for service and a mechanic noted a "large dent" on the front bonnet in April 2010.

The ombudsman referred the complaint to the ethical and Professional Standards Command and Detective Sergeant Shayne Warden investigated the allegations.

Commander Colleen Gwynne then said in a memorandum that there was a "real prospect" that criminal charges would be laid against Constable Holmes. She added that disciplinary charges were expected against both officers. "The complainant's allegations are corroborated by an independent witness, photographs and medical notes," she said.

But the constables took the matter to the NT Supreme Court to prevent a hearing into the breaches because charges were not laid within the six month time frame set out in the Act. Any further decisions will be made at a later date.