The Coroners Court in ACT

THE CORONERS COURT IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY:

A guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

THIRRILI

Losing a family or community member to suicide is heart-breaking. Families and communities deeply feel the loss of a loved one to suicide especially during times of sorry business. What can make things harder is when the death of a loved one to suicide is investigated by a coroner. Speaking and hearing about the loss of a loved one to suicide can be very emotional. The coronial process can be complicated and long, holding up the time when a deceased person can finally rest, and families and communities can heal from grief.

Even though it can be hard for families to go through, it is an important way for mob to have their say and voice heard and make the coroner see opportunities for change so this doesn't happen to someone else.

Thirrili and Norton Rose Fulbright have partnered together to help guide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities through some of the challenges of dealing with the Coroner's Court during times of sorry business and have their voice heard. We pay our respect to the First Nations people of Australia whose Country was never ceded. We acknowledge the devastating impact of suicide on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This guide helps explain the role and processes of the Coroner's Court of the Australian Capital Territory when it investigates a death. It tells you about the kinds of deaths investigated by a coroner and the difference between an investigation and an inquest. The guide also explains how the Coroner's Court can support you and your loved ones throughout the coronial process and how the Coroner's Court can respect cultural protocols.

This Guide to the Australian Capital Territory Coroner's Court for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people includes 9 fact sheets with information for families and communities to make the process of dealing with the coroners easier and more manageable.

Disclaimer: The legal information in this Guide is to help guide you through some of the challenges of dealing with the Coroner's Court during times of sorry business. It is not legal advice. Please consult with your local Aboriginal Legal Service or other legal professional to make sure this information is right for you.

For more help contact

Pro bono legal assistance via phone or email: (02) 6247 0300 or at pbch@actlawsociety.asn.au

The Aboriginal Legal Service via phone or email: (02) 6120 8810 or at canberra@alsnswact.org.au

A community legal centre can be found via the Community Legal Centres Australia database search https://clcs.org.au/legal-help/ _or via phone or email: (02) 9160 9500 or at info@clcs.org.au