The Coroners Court in NT

THE CORONERS OFFICE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

A guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

THIRRILI

Losing a family or community member to suicide is heartbreaking. 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 Office 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 Office of the Northern 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 Office of the Northern Territory can support you and your loved ones throughout the coronial process and how the Coroner's Office can respect cultural protocols.

This Guide to The Coroner's Office of the Northern Territory 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 Office 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.

This information was last updated in December 2024 and does not constitute legal advice.

For more help contact

- The Coroner's Office of the Northern Territory via phone or email: (08) 8999 7770 or at nt.coroner@nt.gov.au
- Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission via phone: 1300 019 343
- North Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency via phone: 1800 898 251
- Darwin Community Legal Service via phone: 300 860 529
- National Legal Hotline via phone: 1300 636 846