FACT SHEET 1

What is the Coroners Court and the role of a coroner?

THIRRILI

The Coroner's Office of the Northern Territory is an office that is set up to investigate and help understand the cause of certain types of deaths including suicide and those due to self-harm.

The role of the coroner is to investigate the death to find out when and where the person died, how they died and, suggest changes to try and prevent the same thing happening to someone else.

In some investigations, a coroner will also hold an "inquest" where there are hearings in a court room.

The coronial process is slow. It can take months or even years. It can take a long time because the coroner may need to talk to many other people about the circumstances of the death, such as a hospital, the police, or a government service.

The Coroner's Office does not have the power to:

- conduct a criminal trial;
- find someone guilty of a crime;
- order that compensation be paid to the family of the deceased; or
- send a person to prison.