

# THE CORONERS COURT IN QUEENSLAND:



THIRRILI

## A guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

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 Coroners 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 Coroners Court of Queensland 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 Coroners Court of Queensland can support you and your loved ones throughout the coronial process and how the Coroners Court can respect cultural protocols.

This Guide to The Coroners Court of Queensland for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families includes 9 fact sheets with information for families and communities to make the process of dealing with the coroner 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 Coroners 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

The Coroners Court of Queensland via phone or email: (07) 3738 7050 or at [state.coroner@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:state.coroner@justice.qld.gov.au)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) via phone or email: 1800 012 255 or at [info@atsils.org.au](mailto:info@atsils.org.au)

The Queensland Coronial Legal Service via phone: (07) 3214 6333.

Coronial Family Services via phone or email: 1800 449 171 or [fss.counsellors@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:fss.counsellors@health.qld.gov.au).

A community legal centre can be found via the Community Legal Centres Australia database: <https://clcs.org.au/legal-help/>



THIRRILI

Working with families and communities after suicide

1800 805 801  
24/7 Australia-wide

In partnership with

 NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT