



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY  
**OFFICE OF THE CORONER**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Coroner's Bushfire Inquiry seeks early public information**

ACT Coroner, Magistrate Maria Doogan, has issued an early and open invitation to the public to assist her Inquiry identify all the major issues to be examined in the coming months.

“The Coronial Investigation Team is making very good progress, including securing over 4,200 documents, cataloguing the enormous damage across the ACT and contacting the victims of the fire and their families. Now is the time for the public to assist in that process”, Ms Doogan said.

Information can be provided directly to the Coroner by writing to the Coroner's Bushfire Inquiry, GPO Box 2167, Canberra City, 2601 or by facsimile on 6217-4508. Information is also being made progressively available on a recorded information line (6217-4319) and the courts' website “[www.courts.act.gov.au](http://www.courts.act.gov.au)”.

“While many of those who lost their homes have already been contacted by my investigators, there are some who have not, perhaps because they are staying with friends or relatives. I am particularly concerned that those people have every opportunity to be heard during the Inquiry“ Ms Doogan said.

“Many other people will, no doubt, have first hand accounts and knowledge of the events I am charged with examining. That evidence will be crucial to building the most accurate picture of what occurred in the ACT during January, 2003” the Coroner said.

**Magistrate Doogan will not be available for media interview.**