

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CORONERS ACT 1997

**ORDER AND CERTIFICATE IN RESPECT OF AN INQUEST
AND DISPENSING WITH A HEARING**

I, **JAMES TREVELYN LAWTON**, a Coroner for the Australian Capital Territory hereby dispense with a hearing into the circumstances surrounding the death of:

DAWN ANGELA ACTON

being of the opinion, after consideration of information given to me by members of the Australian Federal Police and the medical practitioner who performed an examination at my direction, that the manner and cause of death is sufficiently disclosed and that a hearing is unnecessary.

I FIND THAT:

1. Dawn Angela Acton died on 21 October 2019 at The Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).
2. The cause of Ms Acton's death was multiple injuries.
3. The manner of death was accidental.
4. I am also required by section 52(4)(a) of the Coroners Act 1997 to state whether a matter of public safety is found to arise in connection with the inquest, and if so, to comment upon it.
5. Ms Acton died after the car she was driving collided with an ACT fire truck at the intersection of Bowen Drive and Brisbane Avenue, Barton in the ACT.
6. At the time of the collision the fire truck was enroute to Russell Offices where smoke had been reported inside a government building.
7. Ms Acton's car initially came to a stop at the intersection before then proceeding across the path of the fire truck which had slowed before entering the intersection. The fire truck had right of way.

8. Having satisfied myself that:
 - a. Both vehicles revealed no mechanical faults which would have contributed to the collision.
 - b. The fire truck was proceeding in compliance with Road Transport (Road Rules) Regulations 2017 including displaying red and blue flashing lights, and sounding an audible alarm;
 - c. Neither driver was affected by the presence of alcohol or drugs.
9. I make no finding that a matter of public safety arises.
10. Due to public interest in the inquest, I direct that these findings be published in due course on the Coroner's Court website.
11. Ms Acton normally resided in NSW therefore I direct that a copy of these findings be sent to the NSW Coroner.
12. I extend my condolences to Ms Acton's family and friends.

DATED 4 June 2020

**J.T. LAWTON
CORONER**