



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair)
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into West Belconnen supercell thunderstorm

Submission Number: 010

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - HCW](#)
Subject: West Belconnen Supercell Thunderstorm Submission
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Good Morning

I am writing to submit the experience of my family in relation to the January Supercell storm.

This was an awful time for our family. We are a family of four, two parents and two children aged 4 and 2. After the storm, our home was one of the homes that was without power for almost a week. To make matters worse, ACT Health had informed us that our two children had been classified as close contacts from their childcare centre and were forced into isolation.

We called ACT Health for advice as we didn't know how we could be expected to isolate in a home without power. They suggested we stay with family. We have no family in the ACT. They suggested we stay at a hotel for a week at our expense. Unacceptable. Our children are toddlers, and a week stuck in a hotel room would be pure hell. Especially given that we would be paying thousands of dollars to endure such hell. At least at home we had a backyard they could play in. So we stayed at home, isolating in a house without power, for almost a week. The Government gave us no other options and no other assistance.

We used a gas burner on our BBQ to make hot water to bathe our kids and wash our dishes. We had to order delivery everyday, as we could not store food. The Government left us completely unsupported and alone. We were left heavily out-of-pocket from this experience, with no compensation provided.

I am writing this submission, as I wish no family to have to go through this experience. We lived a week in isolation, without power, because of a tree that was planted too close to a power line and then not maintained adequately by the Government, a lack of resources to fix the powerline after the event and close contact rules that kept my healthy family (we did not get COVID) stuck at home, unable to seek food or even a hot shower.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Kindest regards

Natalie Anderson
[REDACTED]