

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH IMPACTS OF EXPOSURE TO
POOR LEVELS OF AIR QUALITY RESULTING FROM
BUSHFIRES AND DROUGHT**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 10 March 2020

Partially
Confidential

In December 2019 I was caught in the bush fire smoke driving from Canberra to Batemans Bay. I could hardly breath during the journey. On arrival in Batemans Bay it was obvious that the smoke was getting worse so I chose to drive to Bermagui further south to get out of the smoke. In fact this was a mistake because the smoke was more intense there.

I experienced breathing difficulties during the day and that night could hardly breath. I felt a intense pain in my chest which continued for more than an hour at which time I fell unconscious. The next think I knew it was the following morning. I suspected I had had a heart attach. Because most of the roads where closed and first respondents were not available got in my car and drove back to Canberra to the my GP who sent me for a blood test. It showed I had had a heart attack. He sent me directly to ACT Emergency where within 12 hour I had a stent fitted.

This has impacted my life and I have had many out of pocket expenses for which the Government bush fire grants are not available despite applying for all available funds.