

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

**Name:** Mrs Judy Wettenhall

**Date Received:** 10 March 2020

---

Our local community was severely impacted by bushfires in late December/early January. Apart from the devastation of the countryside, and the loss of a local young man, and burns to two young fire fighters, my asthma became more problematic as the days progressed. Local air quality measurements were reasonably accurate as we lived in a blanket of smoke for around two and a half weeks. At one stage the air quality index was at 1500. Whilst I understand there is nothing we can do to alleviate bushfire smoke, we need the resources to help some vulnerable individuals manage the conditions. I believe this should be in the way of funding for air filtering systems, and cheap access to medication.

Hourly air quality measurements are not available in all states and cities and this needs to be addressed so people with chronic lung conditions can monitor their daily activities.

I also am a firm believer that some hazard reduction at the appropriate time of year would lessen the severity of bushfires in the following season.

Cheers Judy Wettenhall.

Chair Asthma Australia Consumer Advisory Council