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MEDIA RELEASE

SUBMISSIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON COERCIVE CONTROL OPEN

Submissions to the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control are open, announced its Chair, The Hon Natalie Ward MLC. The new parliamentary committee has been established to examine coercive control in domestic relationships, including whether it should be criminalised in NSW.

Coercive and controlling behaviour is a form of domestic abuse involving repeated patterns of physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse. It is often a precursor to intimate partner homicide. On average one woman every nine days, and one man every twenty nine days, is killed in Australia by a current or former partner.

The Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control will answer questions posed in a [discussion paper](#) on coercive control published by the NSW Government.

Committee Chair, The Hon Natalie Ward MLC said hearing from the public and stakeholders will form a key part of the committee's work.

"What are the benefits and challenges of criminalising coercive control? What would a potential offence look like? And are there other options for reform? These are just some of the issues the Committee will examine as part of its inquiry," Mrs Ward said.

"We look forward to hearing from other jurisdictions, victim-survivors, frontline services, academics, law enforcement, and the community in answering these important questions."

Submissions are open and can be made publicly or confidentially. More information is available on the Committee's [webpage](#), including the terms of reference and how to make a submission.

The closing date for submissions is 29 January 2021 and the Committee will table its report by 30 June 2021.

For confidential advice, support and referrals related to domestic and family violence, contact 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732), the NSW Domestic Violence Line (1800 656 463) or the Men's Referral Service (1300 766 491).

Media: The Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Committee Chair – (02) 9230 2186