



Monday, 22 February 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE INQUIRY INTO COERCIVE CONTROL BEGIN

The Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control will begin hearing evidence in its first round of public hearings. Three full days of public hearings will commence on Monday 22 February 2021 and run through to Wednesday 24 February 2021.

The Committee, which was established by the NSW Parliament in November last year to examine coercive control in domestic relationships, including whether it should be criminalised in NSW, received over one hundred submissions from stakeholders, domestic violence services, victim-survivors and other jurisdictions.

Committee Chair, The Hon Natalie Ward MLC welcomed the opportunity to hear evidence from leading experts and organisations in the sector.

"The Committee will hear evidence from a range of stakeholders, frontline services and law enforcement over the next three days, including; NSW Police, Domestic Violence NSW, Law Society of NSW, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, White Ribbon Australia, Our Watch, National Research Centre for Women's Safety and many more," Mrs Ward said.

"Hearing evidence is crucial for the Committee's inquiry process to ensure the Committee is able to provide a comprehensive report to the Parliament."

As part of the Inquiry's [Terms of Reference](#), the Committee will consider questions posed in a [Discussion Paper](#) on coercive control, published by the NSW Government. 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.

[The NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team Report 2015-2017](#) found that 99 per cent of domestic homicides it reviewed were preceded by coercive or controlling behaviour.

Hearings will be webcast live via the NSW Parliament's [webpage](#). A witness list and hearing schedule can also be found via the Committee's [webpage](#).

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).

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