



Wednesday, 24 February 2021

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MORE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE INQUIRY INTO COERCIVE CONTROL ANNOUNCED**

The Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control has announced a further two days of hearings, plus a visit to regional NSW to be included as part of the Inquiry. The extra hearings will be conducted on 29 and 30 March 2021 with a date for the regional visit to be announced.

This follows three full days of hearings in February, during which the Committee heard evidence from 63 witnesses over almost 18 hours. The Committee has to date received nearly 150 submissions, equating to over 3,000 pages from stakeholders, domestic violence services, victim-survivors and other jurisdictions.

Committee Chair, The Hon Natalie Ward MLC thanked the many witnesses that have already given evidence before the Committee.

"The evidence we have heard from a range of stakeholders, frontline services and law enforcement over the past three days has significantly helped the Committee in preparing its report to the Parliament," Mrs Ward said.

"It is important for us to continue to hear further evidence and include as wide a range of views as possible during the inquiry process."

The Committee, which is the first of its kind in Australia, 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 and report back to the Parliament by 30 June 2021.

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.

A witness list and hearing schedule will be made public closer to the hearing dates and can be found via the Committee's [webpage](#) when announced.

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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