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## MEDIA RELEASE

### COERCIVE CONTROL COMMITTEE HEADS TO REGIONAL NSW

The Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control will today travel to Narrandera to meet with domestic violence victim-survivors, indigenous organisations, frontline services and local charities from regional NSW as part of its ongoing Inquiry.

This follows five days of hearings in February and March, during which the Committee heard evidence from more than 100 witnesses. The Committee has received more than 150 submissions (equating to more than 3,500 pages) from stakeholders, domestic violence services, victim-survivors and other jurisdictions.

Committee Chair, The Hon Natalie Ward MLC said this visit highlights the need to hear from all cross sections of the community on this important issue.

"Coercive and controlling behaviour is not limited to a postcode, it occurs across our community. That's why it is so important that the Committee not only hears from frontline services, victim-survivors, experts and law enforcement but also engages directly with communities," Mrs Ward said.

"The cross-party committee comprises of a majority of regional members, including Steph Cooke MP, who encouraged the committee to come to Narrandera and hear the experiences of locals."

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.

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

More information on Committee members, submissions and Terms of Reference can be found [here](#).

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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