

From: [Amanda Cohn](#)
To: [Committee on Coercive Control](#)
Subject: Re: Transcript of evidence - Coercive control in domestic relationships
Date: Tuesday, 20 April 2021 5:26:10 PM

Hello Dora,

Here are the case studies as requested and highlighted in the transcript:

Case study from Hume Riverina Community Legal Service:

Our client and her partner lived in Albury in NSW before moving a couple of kilometers south to Wodonga in Victoria. While in Albury, she was assaulted by her partner and NSW Police applied for an AVO for her protection. Before leaving Albury, her then ex-partner breached the protection order on four separate occasions and each time she reported to a different member of the police. She then fled Albury with the assistance of a local family violence service, however, her ex-partner located her and assaulted her in her home. Our client reported this to Victoria Police and asked to change her protection order to include her infant son who was at home during the assault. Victoria Police told her she had to speak with NSW Police. NSW Police told her it was a Victoria Police matter. After several weeks of trying to get assistance from the police, she applied to vary the protection order herself with the assistance of our lawyers. Her ex-partner was then charged in Victoria with assault but NSW Police took carriage of the breach of the AVO from the same incident. She was exhausted and overwhelmed at the number of police members she had to deal with and the complexities arising from the cross-border issues.

Cross-border factors compound the difficulties faced by diverse population groups in navigating access to support and being safe e.g. Aboriginal communities, people who do not speak English as a first language, and people with disabilities.

Case study provided by Gateway Health Counselling and Support Program:

Several years ago, a migrant woman arrived in Australia with a child from previous marriage. She married an Australian man, 30 years her senior, whom she met while he was overseas. She became trapped in an emotionally and verbally abusive marriage.

Early in the relationship, the husband asserted his power with a serious physically violent episode. Since then, he used non-physically violent methods to control his wife by being highly critical of everything she did, constantly calling her derogatory names and telling her she was mentally unstable if she became upset or questioned him.

He undermined her relationship with her son by applying rigid rules and expectations on both wife and son. He also berated and put her down in front of son. He controlled who she talked to by controlling access to phone and where she went by installing spyware on her phone. The husband deleted phone messages from son, and sent messages to son pretending to be her, to create division and sabotage their relationship. The son left home as soon as able.

All her finances were controlled by him. Visa and residency status were also used to control her behaviour. She sought Police help multiple times but only non-physical abuse was mentioned and police did not respond. Due to constantly shifting behaviours and rules, she experienced low self-esteem, lack of confidence, elevated stress reactions and a normal state of hyper-vigilance.

The wife felt unable to leave due to finances, residency, being alone, not wanting to return to

her home country, and having a son that would remain in Australia. Eventually, after a several years of marriage and experiencing coercive control, during a verbally abusive episode, she physically assaulted her husband to “shut him up”. She now faces criminal charges and is homeless.

Kind regards,

Amanda

Cr Amanda Cohn
Deputy Mayor
AlburyCity

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Albury is Wiradjuri country.

From: coercivecontrol@parliament.nsw.gov.au <coercivecontrol@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 April 2021 9:30:41 AM
To: Amanda Cohn
Cc: coercivecontrol@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Transcript of evidence - Coercive control in domestic relationships

Dear Dr Cohn

Thank you for appearing before the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control on 29/03/2021 for the Coercive control in domestic relationships.

An uncorrected transcript of your evidence is attached. Please read and, if necessary, correct the transcript, bearing in mind:

- Standing Order 293 of the Legislative Assembly limits corrections to verbal inaccuracies. Your evidence can only be changed through providing further evidence to the Committee.
- The transcript is a record of oral evidence, with its normal differences from written expression. You should not attempt to improve sentence structure or refine meaning.
- If you made a mistake of fact or want to clarify an issue, please provide the details in a separate letter with your corrected transcript.

Please mark your corrections on the transcript and return it to Committee staff by return email. If I have not heard from you within two days from the date of this email, I will assume you have no corrections. Once corrections have been received from all witnesses, the full transcript will be published on the Committee’s webpage.

Please note that the transcript of your evidence cannot be published or disclosed unless authorised by the Committee. Unauthorised publications are not protected by parliamentary privilege and may be contempt of Parliament.

Any questions you took on notice during the hearing are highlighted in the attached transcript.

If you have any questions, please contact me via return email.

More information about the inquiry can be found at the committee’s [webpage](#).

Yours sincerely

Dora Oravec

Committee Manager
Joint Select Committee on coercive control