

**Submission  
No 6**

## **COERCIVE CONTROL IN DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

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I have significant concerns with this proposed law:

1. Women are just as or more controlling than men:

<https://www.medicaldaily.com/domestic-violence-against-men-women-more-likely-be-intimate-terrorists-controlling-behavior-290662>

but there's a real risk of bias against men in operation of this proposed law - noting Discussion Paper p.26 claiming "initial analysis of the English and Welsh offence has found that it has been appropriately operationalised by recognising the gendered nature of this type offending" - supported by just one reference.

2. Making controlling behaviour a crime is difficult to define & enforce (as the Discussion Paper recognises).

3. Because it's often so insidious, the most important thing is for victims to be aware of what they're being subjected to (for men especially), so they have greater confidence to demand their partners stop it, or else leave the relationship.

A criminal trial would almost certainly end the relationship anyway!

4. So it's hard to see much good from criminalising adult coercive control, and worse, doing so will add long, complex cases to the justice system, which will only worsen current waiting times.

5. However, abusive control of children - including #ParentalAlienation - should be a crime, because they can't leave the family: [davidthorp.net/human-services/dv/children](http://davidthorp.net/human-services/dv/children)

I also concur with @RealMarkLatham as reported by @mirandadevine in the @dailytelegraph here: <https://twitter.com/dailytelegraph/status/1351711232558993408> particularly...

"Poverty is the main driver of domestic violence. The hopelessness it brings to people's lives warps the natural protective instincts of men (and also many women), leading them into aberrant, destructive patterns of violence..."

This is what makes the push for Coercive Control legislation so futile. It overlooks the root cause of the problem: poverty, and seeks a broadbrush, legally unworkable solution to an issue that has its origins elsewhere...

The real risk is setting up a new legal offence for the persecution of the poor and vulnerable ... When governments start policing patterns of behaviour inside the family home, we move one step closer to a police state."

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/miranda-devine-mark-latham-protects-families-from-nonsense-bill/news-story/09ed87a806e5df7ef69de875122a5b05>