

Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022

Statutory Report

1 July 2025

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The Hon. Michael Daley, MP
Attorney General
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Attorney General

Report of the Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce for the coercive control reform

The Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce constituted by section 54I(1) of the *Crimes Act 1900*, and of which I am the Chairperson under section 54I(2)(a), makes this report to you pursuant to its requirements under section 54I(8).

The Taskforce will continue to monitor the offence and consider advice from Reference Groups, next reporting in July 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Tidball
Secretary
Department of Communities and Justice

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Executive Summary

The NSW Parliament passed the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022* (the **Act**) on 16 November 2022, and it received assent on 23 November 2022. The Act:

- Established the Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce (the **Taskforce**) on 1 December 2022, under section 54I of the *Crimes Act 1900* (the **Crimes Act**). The Taskforce is supported by sector-specific Reference Groups.
- Introduced a statutory definition of ‘domestic abuse’ in section 6A of the *Crimes (Domestic Personal Violence) Act 2007*, which commenced on 1 February 2024.
- Introduced a standalone offence of ‘Abusive behaviour towards current or former intimate partners’ (the **coercive control offence**) in section 54D of the Crimes Act.

The Taskforce is required to report routinely to the Minister on offence implementation and monitoring. This is the fifth report of the Taskforce, and the first in its monitoring phase.

Three implementation reports were tabled in both Houses of Parliament in June 2023, December 2023, and June 2024. The reports:

- Canvassed the constitution activities of the Taskforce and the multiple Reference Groups.
- Outlined progress against the Taskforce’s implementation workstreams, including the delivery of training by justice agencies critical to the implementation of the coercive control offence: NSW Police Force, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid NSW and the Judicial Commission of NSW.
- Summarised the extensive consultation undertaken on agency training and to deliver a public communications strategy to support the reform.
- Demonstrated criminal justice system readiness for the commencement of the coercive control offence on 1 July 2024.

A **fourth** interim report was provided on request of the Attorney General to consider the early operation of the coercive control offence. It advised that no major concerns had been identified in the first months of operation, however there may be need for further training and awareness.

This **fifth** report outlines:

- A statement to the people of NSW from the Lived Expertise Reference Group. This moving statement (page 7) clearly shows the benefits of engaging with people with lived expertise.
- The governance to support monitoring the coercive control reform, including Taskforce and Reference Group memberships and meeting arrangements.
- Monitoring and reporting of the Taskforce, including:
 - data covering the first nine months of the offence
 - advice from Reference Groups on offence operation

- further training and education by the NSW Police Force and the Judicial Commission of NSW
 - further tailored awareness campaigns
 - evaluation of implementation workstreams, where data permits
 - future reporting by the Taskforce.
- The statutory review requirements and that the reforms introduced by the Act are required to be reviewed, commencing in July 2026.
- Activities in other jurisdictions since the commencement of the Act in NSW, and how the operation in other jurisdictions may inform the statutory review.

Lived Expertise Reference Group statement

In 2023, the Taskforce issued an expression of interest for people with lived experience of coercive control to form a reference group to inform Taskforce decision making when implementing the NSW coercive control offence. The Lived Expertise Reference Group included nine members from various community groups, joined together by their experiences of domestic abuse. The reference group met six times, contributed extensively to the awareness campaigns and shared their stories and experiences to inform agency training.

The Lived Expertise Reference Group had its last meeting on 17 October 2024. Members will continue to be involved in this reform process through events and ad hoc consultation. The Taskforce extends its gratitude to all members of the reference group. Their courage and engagement put lived experience at the centre of reform implementation. The Lived Expertise Reference Group illustrates the importance of engaging with people with lived experience.

Below is a statement from the Lived Expertise Group to everyone involved or interested in improving outcomes for people who have lived with abuse.

Statement to the People of New South Wales from the Lived Expertise Reference Group

As members of the Lived Expertise Reference Group, we came together as part the NSW Coercive Control Implementation and Monitoring Taskforce in 2023. We have shared our collective experiences and insights into the profound impact that domestic abuse has had on each of us and used our strengths to ensure that the implementation of the new legislation is successful. The work we have done is significant, and important. It has been foundational to the training and education of services, justice agencies, and the broader community. We have put every effort into making sure this change succeeds, through our relentless advocacy, participation in forums and conferences, feedback on campaigns, and reminding of key stakeholders as to why, and for whom, this matters so much.

Our diverse voices represent those who have lived through the harrowing realities and daily terrors of coercive control; the root of why we've come together as a group and why this legislative change matters so deeply. For too long, domestic violence in this form went unrecognised, unchallenged, and unpunished. Under its shadow, we have endured emotional and psychological abuse, sexual violence, technological-facilitated abuse, harm to pets, child abuse, the unique challenges faced in regional areas, within LGBTIQ+SB relationships, and other forms. For some of us, including Aboriginal members, this abuse led us into harmful systems that further separated us from our children, our culture, and our sense of self.

Today, we stand united in support of the work that has been done to bring the historic legislation to criminalise coercive control in NSW to life. We want to convey why this change is so important to us, and the difference we hope it will make in communities across our State.

We each know, intimately, what coercive control is - a pattern of behaviour that seeks to dominate and entrap an individual through manipulation, intimidation, isolation, and other forms of psychological abuse. Coercive control operates insidiously. Over time, it decreases a person's autonomy, self-worth, and safety. The impacts of coercive control erode and then dissolve an

individual's core sense of self. It obstructs a victim from the spiritual, cultural and family connections which are pivotal to establishing peace, and a sense of meaning and purpose in life. It is an abuse of power that can strip victims of their independence, making it incredibly difficult for them to seek help or even recognise that they are being abused. Coercive control profoundly harms children and erodes their developing identities, self-worth and self-determination, often with life-long impacts.

For too long, our laws around domestic violence haven't adequately represented the true nature of our lived experience. Laws have focused on physical incidents of violence, leaving victims of coercive control unprotected from what many of us describe as the 'worst kinds' of abuse. Those choosing to use coercive control have often operated with impunity, knowing that their actions could not be the subject of prosecution. The criminalisation of coercive control means a significant shift in how everyone can understand and respond to domestic and family violence and recognise just how broad the full spectrum of abusive behaviours can be. These behaviours impacted our lives and continue to devastate the lives of others.

In providing our advice to the Taskforce, we recognise that while not all victims may not feel safe to engage with the criminal justice system, having the option to do so is incredibly important. It represents the choice many of us didn't have.

As we look to the future, these are the hopes we have that the criminalisation of coercive control will bring about meaningful change for those experiencing it:

We hope that more victims will feel empowered to report coercive control, knowing that the law not only supports them but is deeply rooted in their lived experiences, prioritising a victim-centred approach so they feel heard, supported and respected.

We hope that more victims will feel empowered to report coercive control, knowing that the law is on their side and reflects their experiences.

We hope that greater knowledge and understanding will mean all kinds of support services will become more attuned to the needs of those experiencing coercive control and further develop skills and resources to adequately, meaningfully and tangibly supporting victim/survivors

We hope the implementation of this legislation will continue to deliver comprehensive training for all Police, Courts law enforcement, legal professionals, and systems workers.

We hope for a future where everyone involved in response and recovery is equipped to recognise and effectively respond to coercive control, ensuring that victims receive the protection and support they deserve.

We hope to see a cultural shift in how society views and addresses domestic and family violence. In criminalising coercive control, we send a clear message that it is unacceptable.

We hope the cultural change can lead to greater empathy, understanding, and collective action to prevent and address domestic violence.

Ultimately, we hope this legislation enhances the safety and wellbeing of all individuals in New South Wales. We can create a safer State where victims are supported, abusers are held accountable for their actions, and communities are empowered to stand against all forms of

domestic violence. And we have worked hard, giving our time, our experience and our goodwill to leave a legacy of these things happening.

As survivors and advocates, we are proud of the relentless work that has led to this vital legislative change, stemming originally from pain, but now from a world of persistence and clarity in the voices of those that have been profoundly impacted.

It is through the unwavering support and fierce collaboration of support services, people with lived experience, government, and the Lived Experience Reference Group that we stand here today; not only to represent, but to protect our communities. The criminalisation of coercive control marks a pivotal moment in legislative reform, reflecting the power of advocacy and voices joined to create policy change. It signifies a way for improved reporting and recognition for domestic abuse in New South Wales.

Today, and every day, we stand in unwavering solidarity with all victim-survivors, those who love them, those who walk beside them, and all those who fight for a world free from abuse.

The Lived Expertise Reference Group

Introduction

The NSW Parliament passed the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022* (the **Act**) on 16 November 2022, and it received assent on 23 November 2022. The Act commenced the coercive control reform by:

- Establishing the Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce (the **Taskforce**) on 1 December 2022, under section 54I of the *Crimes Act 1900* (the **Crimes Act**). The Taskforce supported by sector-specific Reference Groups. The Act requires the Taskforce to oversee the implementation, and monitor the operation, of the coercive control reform.
- Introducing a statutory definition of ‘domestic abuse’ in section 6A of the *Crimes (Domestic Personal Violence) Act 2007* (the **domestic abuse definition**), which commenced on 1 February 2024.
- Introducing a standalone offence of ‘Abusive behaviour towards current or former intimate partners’ (the **coercive control offence**) in section 54D of the Crimes Act. It commenced on 1 July 2024, in accordance with the Act, and followed a 19-month implementation period.

The domestic abuse definition provides a legal definition of behaviour that is domestic abuse, clarifying that it is more than physical violence. The definition also works with other laws that respond to domestic abuse.

The coercive control offence is punishable by up to seven years imprisonment. It applies where an adult engages in a course of conduct that is abusive behaviour against a current or former intimate partner, with the intention of coercing or controlling that person, and where a reasonable person would consider that the conduct would be likely to cause a fear of violence or to have a serious adverse impact on the capacity to engage in day-to-day activities.

The Taskforce is required to provide the Attorney General with a report¹ in relation to its main purposes:

- at least once each six months during the period between the commencement of section 54I (1 December 2022) and the commencement of the coercive control offence (no later than July 2024), and
- at least every 12 months after the commencement of the coercive control offence.

The Attorney General must table the reports in each House of Parliament within 21 days after receipt.²

This report is the fifth report under section 54I(8) of the Crimes Act. It is required to address the ‘main purposes’ of the Taskforce as defined at section 54I(3) and outlined below in Table 1.

¹ *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) section 54I(8).

² *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) section 54I(9).

Table 1: Main Purposes of the Taskforce (section 54I(3))

Section	Purpose	Reference in this report or other reports
(a)	Consult with stakeholders, including Reference Groups established under section 54I(3), about the offence under section 54D (the coercive control offence) and related matters.	Pages 21-29
(b)	Provide advice about, and monitor, training, education and resourcing in relation to the coercive control offence.	Pages 30-34
(c)	Provide advice about the commencement dates of, and interaction between, the definition of domestic abuse in the <i>Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007</i> , section 6A and the coercive control offence.	First, Second and Third reports as noted on page 5
(d)	Evaluate the implementation of the coercive control offence and resourcing in relation to the coercive control offence.	Pages 35-39
(e)	Monitor the operation of this Division, including – (i) the practical application of defences to the coercive control offence, and (ii) resourcing in relation to the operation of the Division.	Page 19 - 20 and 34, noting the defence under s54E has not been raised as at July 2025.
(f)	Provide advice to the Minister about other matters related to a matter in paragraph (a)-(e) of section 54I(3) or the coercive control offence.	Page 40-42 and Future reports

Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce

Under the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022* (the **Act**), the Attorney General was required to establish an Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce (the **Taskforce**) to convene within one month of the commencement of section 54I of the *Crimes Act 1900* (**Crimes Act**). Section 54I commenced on 1 December 2022.

Section 54I(2) prescribes that the Taskforce:

- is chaired by the Secretary of the department in which the Crimes Act is administered, being the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice, and
- is constituted by a representative from the NSW Police Force, the chair of the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council, and a member from the domestic and family violence sector with substantial expertise and experience in domestic and family violence service delivery (the **statutory members**).

The Taskforce was established from December 2022 and was constituted by appointment of the then Attorney General. Membership includes the statutory members under section 54I(2) and member agencies from other relevant areas of Government.

Taskforce members

Table 2 outlines the statutory members and additional member agencies.

Table 2: Taskforce Members
Statutory members appointed under section 54I(2)
Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) (Chairperson)
Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, DCJ and Chair of the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council (Deputy Chairperson)
Assistant Commissioner, NSW Police Force
Annabelle Daniel OAM, Chief Executive Officer, Women's Community Shelters and Chair, Domestic Violence NSW (Independent member)
Government member agencies
Deputy Secretary, Law Reform and Legal Services, DCJ (joined March 2025)
Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Premier's Department
Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW
Executive Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (joined March 2025)
Executive Director, Criminal Law Division, Legal Aid NSW
Executive Director, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, DCJ (joined March 2025)
Executive Director, Health and Stronger Communities, NSW Treasury

Table 2: Taskforce Members
Executive Director, Social Policy, The Cabinet Office
Women's Safety Commissioner (joined April 2024)

Taskforce governance

Section 54I(3)(f) of the Crimes Act requires that the Taskforce provide advice on its main purposes to ‘the Minister’. This refers to the Attorney General of NSW.

The Taskforce is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice. The Secretary is also the chairperson of the NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Board, which oversees the implementation of the recommendations made by the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control.³ Accordingly, the Secretary is the conduit between the Taskforce and the Board, ensuring that information flows between the two bodies.⁴

The Secretary, as Chairperson of the Taskforce, appointed the statutory member who is the Chairperson of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council as the Deputy Chairperson of the Taskforce. This ensures an information flow between the Taskforce and Council, as determined by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, to support monitoring the coercive control offence in NSW.

There are six Reference Groups, and each group is chaired by an appropriate member of the Taskforce. This ensures that discussions and advice from Reference Groups are integrated into the decision-making of the Taskforce in its formulation of advice to the Minister. The Taskforce and Reference Groups (including those with lived experience who contributed to implementation) will be invited to convene annually at a forum to consider the operation of the coercive control reform.

The Taskforce and Reference Groups are supported by a Secretariat in the Department of Communities and Justice.

The Taskforce governance structure (from 2025) is presented in Figure 1 on page 18.

Taskforce workstreams July 2024-26

Table 3 on page 14 outlines the Taskforce workstreams for July 2024-26.

³ Recommendation 8 of the Joint Select Committee’s Report provides that the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice should work together with a range of public bodies including NSW Police Force, Health, Education, Justice, Housing, and Indigenous agencies to prevent domestic abuse, with the aim of reducing the numbers of victims and perpetrators of abuse. This represents a critical opportunity to implement an early intervention and public health-focused approach, rather than relying solely on traditional criminal justice levers, which only come into play in the aftermath of an offence. The whole-of-government approach to domestic and family violence is the role of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Board.

⁴ The NSW Women’s Safety Commissioner is also a member of the NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Board and is a member of the Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce as part of her role in providing leadership and oversight of whole of NSW government policy and programs on domestic, family and sexual violence.

Table 3: Taskforce workstreams July 2024-26

Workstreams	Key Focus	Legislative Reference or Joint Select Committee Report Recommendation	Outcomes to July 2025
Stream 1: Monitoring Lead: Department of Communities and Justice	The Taskforce is to consider quarterly monitoring reports on offence operation from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR). The Taskforce will further monitor advice from Reference Groups which will advise on training and resourcing.	Section 54I(3)(e) of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> Section 54I(3)(a) of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> Section 54I(3)(b) of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> Part of recommendations 1, 19, 22 of the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control report which was supported by the then NSW Government. ⁵	BOCSAR Preliminary reports published <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 2024 September 2024 BOCSAR monitoring reports published <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2024 March 2025 Reference Group advice detailed on pages 21-29 of this report Training and resourcing as outlined on pages 30-34 of this report
Stream 2: Evaluation and research Lead: Department of Communities and Justice	Evaluation of implementation in accordance with the Act, and independent qualitative research into the experience of domestic and family violence victim-survivors in the NSW criminal justice system in a post-coercive control landscape.	Section 54I(3)(d) of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i>	Evaluation of implementation as detailed on pages 35-39 of this report Qualitative research detailed in the Interim Report: ⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of research description by Taskforce Establishment of advisory group Procurement for independent qualitative research.
Stream 3: Reporting Lead: Department of Communities and Justice	The Taskforce must provide an annual report to the Attorney General in relation to its main purposes as prescribed by Section 54I (3). The Taskforce was also required to provide an interim report on the	Section 54I(8) of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i>	Interim Report provided to the Attorney General in December 2024, which was tabled in February 2025. ⁷ Annual monitoring report provided to the

⁵ NSW Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control, *Coercive Control in Domestic Relationships*, Report1/57 (June 2021).

<<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ladocs/inquiries/2626/Report%20-%20coercive%20control%20in%20domestic%20relationships.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025).

⁶ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Interim Report* (December 2024).

<<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-taskforce-interim-report-december-24.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025).

⁷ Ibid.

Table 3: Taskforce workstreams July 2024-26

Workstreams	Key Focus	Legislative Reference or Joint Select Committee Report Recommendation	Outcomes to July 2025
	early operation of the offence, as requested by the Attorney General.		Attorney General by 1 July 2025 (this report).

Meetings of the Taskforce

The Taskforce met sixteen times between December 2022 and June 2025, as detailed in previous reports.

The Taskforce has met twice in 2025:

- **Meeting 15:** 24 March 2025
- **Meeting 16:** 18 June 2025

Further meetings are scheduled for:

- **Meeting 17:** 5 December 2025

A forum to consider the first year of operation of the coercive control offence is scheduled for September 2025 with reference group members.

Meeting dates are published on the DCJ website.

Reference Groups

Section 54I(5) of the *Crimes Act 1900* (the **Crimes Act**) requires the Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce (the **Taskforce**) to establish Reference Groups to consider and provide advice and recommendations to the Taskforce about the impact of the coercive control legislation on specific communities and on particular elements of the legislation.

Section 54I(6) of the Crimes Act prescribes that Reference Groups are to consist of members who have expertise in, or legal knowledge of, the subject matter for which the Reference Group is established. It also provides examples of sectors and organisations which could make up the Reference Groups:

the domestic and family violence sector, the legal profession, the Judicial Commission of NSW, Aboriginal organisations and groups, the culturally and linguistically diverse sector, LGBTIQ+ groups, the disability sector, youth and childrens groups, victims and survivors of sexual or domestic and family violence and the families of victims and survivors.⁸

Section 54I(7) of the Crimes Act requires the Taskforce, in carrying out its main purposes, to consult with any Reference Group on matters relevant to the particular purpose.

Each Reference Group is chaired by a Taskforce member who reports back to the Taskforce as a standing agenda item at Taskforce meetings.

Reference Groups will meet jointly in September 2025 to consult with each other and Taskforce members at a forum focused on offence operation. The Taskforce’s Secretariat supports the operation of each group.

Table 4 outlines the six Reference Groups, their Chairperson and previous meeting dates.

Table 4: Reference Groups		
Group Name	Chairperson	Meeting Dates
First Nations Communities	Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Premier’s Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">16 October 202412 March 202516 June 2025
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities	Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">23 October 202412 March 202528 May 2025

⁸ *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) s 54I(6).

Table 4: Reference Groups		
Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Service Delivery	Annabelle Daniel OAM, Chief Executive Officer, Women's Community Shelters and Chair, Domestic Violence NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 October 2024 • 11 December 2024 • 12 March 2025 • 16 June 2025
Government	Deputy Secretary, Law Reform and Legal Services, Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 October 2024 (Government and Legal) • 10 March 2025 (Government)
Legal	Executive Director, Criminal Law Division, Legal Aid NSW (Legal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 October 2024 (Government and Legal) • 13 March 2025 (Legal)
Community Sector Specialists	Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 & 23 October 2024 (Older Persons and People with Disability; Children and Youth) • 14 March 2025 (Community Sector Specialists)

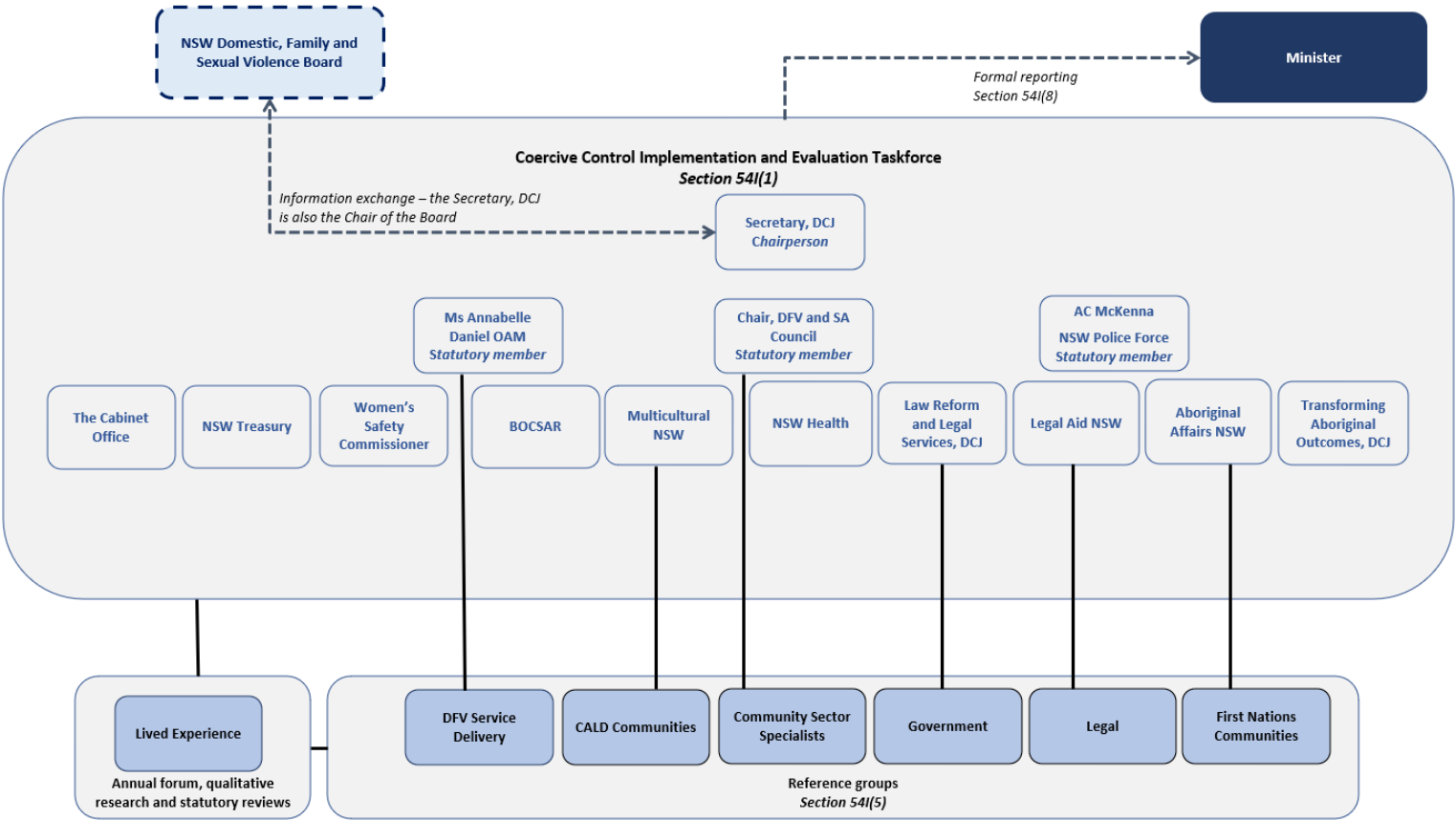
Advice on offence operation received from Reference Groups to the Taskforce is detailed on pages 21-30. Member agencies of the Reference Groups are detailed in **Appendix 2**.

Information about the Taskforce and the Reference Groups is published on the DCJ website.⁹

⁹ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, 'Coercive control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce'.
<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police--legal-help-and-the-law/criminalising-coercive-control-in-nsw/coercive-control-implementation-and-evaluation-taskforce.html>, accessed 4 June 2025.

Governance diagram

Figure 1 – Monitoring governance¹⁰



¹⁰ Figure 1 refers to the **NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Board** that provides whole-of-government strategic direction on domestic, family, and sexual violence reforms, and is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice. Figure 1 also refers to the **NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council**, chaired by the Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning in DCJ. The Council, along with the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Corporate Leadership Group, provide advice to the Minister for Women, Seniors and Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault on domestic, family and sexual violence reforms and initiatives relevant to their Terms of Reference.

Monitoring and reporting

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (**BOCSAR**) is responsible for public monitoring of the coercive control reform. Due to the significant amount of stakeholder, sector and public interest in the coercive control offence, BOCSAR has published four data reports including two detailed monitoring reports since August 2024.¹¹

The detailed reports cover the first nine months of the offence's operation (July 2024 to March 2025), including metrics which were designed in consultation with the Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce (the **Taskforce**) and its Reference Groups. The Taskforce's June 2024 report contains further information about that consultation.¹²

The BOCSAR monitoring reports are published each quarter and are considered by the Taskforce and Reference Groups at their meetings.

Data on the offence

In the first nine months of offence operation (July 2024 to March 2025), NSW Police recorded 224 reports of coercive control (with each capturing a course of conduct).

The most commonly recorded controlling behaviours in the 224 coercive control reports were:

- Harassment, Monitoring or Tracking (134 reports or 60%)
- Threats or Intimidation (113 reports or 50%).
- Financial Abuse (102 reports or 46%)
- Shaming, Degrading or Humiliating (98 reports or 44%)
- Social Isolation or Cultural Abuse (94 reports or 42%)

Of the 224 reports:

- 96 occurred in Greater Sydney (43%), and 128 occurred in Regional NSW (57%).
- Of the recorded victims, 209 (93%) were female and 15 (7%) were male. The vast majority (92%) of reports involved female victims and male offenders. Nine reports (4%) involved a male victim with a female offender and nine (4%) involved same sex relationships.
- Twenty three of the recorded coercive control victims were Aboriginal (10%) and 201 were non-Aboriginal or unknown (90%).
- Of the recorded victims, 77 (or 34%) were aged 30-39 years.

¹¹ NSW Government, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Domestic Violence*. <<https://bocsar.nsw.gov.au/topic-areas/domestic-violence.html>>, (retrieved 19 June 2025).

¹² NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Statutory Report* (June 2024). <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/dcj-website/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/crimes-legislation-amendment-coercive-control-act-2022-statutor-report.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025).

Legal actions

Of the 224 reports, five had charges proceed for the coercive control offence by March 2025. Two of these charges were withdrawn by the prosecution, with other domestic violence charges proceeding against those defendants. All five defendants charged were male, non-Aboriginal and aged between 30 and 49 years.

One coercive control charge has been proven. The defendant entered into a guilty plea and was sentenced to an 18 month Intensive Correction Order. The other matters reflected in the published data are proceeding in the Local and District Courts and will likely take time before finalisation. The Taskforce is aware of four further charges which will be reported in BOCSAR's September quarterly report.

The 224 reports from July 2024 to March 2025 reflect a total of 223 criminal events¹³. Of the 223 criminal events, 41% resulted in charges for other domestic violence (DV) offences. The most common types of charges arising from reports of coercive control were for intimidation/stalking, breach Apprehended Violence Order, DV assault, and property damage.

Taskforce comment

Coercive control charges

The Taskforce notes reference group member concerns about the number of charges which have legally proceeded by March 2025. As previously reported by the Taskforce, it is expected that coercive control charges will take time to be investigated and laid and to proceed through the criminal justice system, especially given the offence is designed to capture a prospective pattern of abusive behaviour.¹⁴ The time dedicated to complex investigations are an indication that the offence is capturing serious patterns of abusive behaviour.

The Taskforce notes that no First Nations people have been charged with the offence to date. This includes First Nations women. The impact of the offence on First Nations communities will continue to remain a key focus of the Taskforce in its monitoring of the offence.

The Taskforce recognises reports of coercive control began to be recorded by police immediately following offence commencement and through the period of the advertising campaign. The Taskforce notes advice from BOCSAR that reports were expected to grow but have been stable from commencement to March 2025.

The Taskforce will continue to monitor data on the offence as it is published by BOCSAR and will report again on its observations in July 2026 ahead of the statutory review. It is open to the Taskforce to advise the Attorney General on offence operation sooner if needed.

¹³ A criminal event relates to one or more criminal incidents reported to Police at the one time involving the same alleged offender. A criminal event can include different offence types.

¹⁴ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Interim Report* (December 2024). <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-taskforce-interim-report-december-24.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025), 15.

Impact of 2024 Bail Reforms

The Taskforce is required¹⁵ to advise the Attorney General on the impact of provisions introduced under the *Bail and Other Legislation Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2024*. That Act prescribes that the coercive control offence be considered in two ways when a bail authority is considering bail applications:

- where coercive control is charged, the accused must show cause as to why the accused should be granted bail; and
- where a bail decision is granted in a coercive control matter, the prosecution may stay the matter pending an appeal.

There is insufficient data to comment on the impact of the bail reforms on people charged with the coercive control offence at this stage. The Taskforce will consider this issue in future reports.

Monitoring – consultation with Reference Groups

Section 54I(5) and (7) of the *Crimes Act 1900* (**Crimes Act**) requires the Taskforce to establish Reference Groups to advise the Taskforce on the impact of the coercive control legislation on specific communities and on particular elements of the offence (see p. 16).

The Taskforce considers Reference Group advice and recommendations, noting the statutory remit of the Taskforce to implement and monitor the coercive control legislation as passed by Parliament.

Table 5 below summarises the broad themes of advice and recommendations from Reference Groups to the Taskforce from July 2024 to June 2025, including some concerns reiterated by members which have also been detailed in the Interim Report.¹⁶ Matters which have not been resubmitted by members have not been reproduced in this report.

In addition to the regular meetings of the Reference Groups (see pp. 16-17), the Taskforce sought written submissions from Reference Group members in April-May 2025 on offence operation.

The Taskforce has considered in detail the advice provided by Reference Group members in its meetings and the written submissions, and thanks members for their continued engagement in the reform (see Table 5).

The key concerns that have been raised are being addressed by ongoing sector training and community awareness activities, as outlined from page 30. They will also be considered as part of the review processes for the offence.¹⁷

The coercive control offence and definition of domestic abuse (see page 10) will continue to be monitored by the Taskforce in consultation with Reference Groups.

¹⁵ NSW Parliament 2024, Legislative Council Hansard 6 June 2024 *Bail and Other Legislation Amendment (Domestic Violence) Bill 2024*. <<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansardResult.aspx#/docid/'HANSARD-1820781676-95910'>>, accessed 4 June 2025.

¹⁶ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Interim Report* (December 2024). <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-taskforce-interim-report-december-24.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025).

¹⁷ *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) s 54I(3)(e), s 54J.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
Offence in practice	No advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Reference Group members have not shared advice on the offence in practice, noting the limited matters which have proceeded through the criminal justice system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce recognises that time is required to observe the offence in practice, and thanks Reference Group members for their ongoing engagement in the reform. The Taskforce will consider advice on the coercive control offence as it becomes available.
	Police engagement with First Nations Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some members acknowledged the training already undertaken by police to support First Nations victim-survivors but considered there is a need for additional training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce considered the advice and thanks members for raising these issues. The ongoing training provided by NSW Police Force is outlined on page 30. The Taskforce facilitated engagement between the NSW Police Force's Domestic and Family Violence Command and both the First Nations Communities Reference Group and the CALD Communities Reference Group to further discuss their interests and concerns. The meetings included discussions on training, quality assurance and data insights, and police experiences with communities across NSW.
	Police engagement with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other members expressed interest in further insights on the experiences of police working with diverse communities. Members also sought to better understand how their organisations can support the work of police in engaging with diverse communities. Members noted they continue to hear about coercive controlling behaviours from non-intimate partners in family relationships and in migrant, non-English speaking communities and that victims appear confused about their rights and protections. Reports to police may also be boosted by First Responders receiving training on the importance of culturally aware and safe practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce thanks Reference Group members for their advice on coercive and controlling behaviours in migrant communities. The Taskforce oversaw the development and launch of further awareness campaigns for Korean, Assyrian, Farsi, Punjabi and Tagalog communities. These build upon existing campaign materials in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Arabic released last year and the coercive control website detailing support services for people experiencing domestic abuse in family relationships. The Act prescribes that the statutory review must consider whether other relationships should be included within the purview of the offence. The Statutory review must commence by July 2026.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
Implementation	Continuous training and implementation are necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that implementation work is ongoing and continues to form part of this next phase of the reform. Some members advised that there is a continuous effort around community awareness raising and frontline agencies, including police and the DFV sectors, becoming familiar with the offence. Some members consider it will take time for the number of reports to police about coercive control to grow, noting the experiences of other jurisdictions like England. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce noted the advice and values the continued engagement of Reference Group members. The Taskforce recognises it will take time for awareness and understanding of coercive control and the offence to become established in NSW.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member referred to its previous report, based on experiences of its members of the offence in practice, which recommended legislative change, and further training, community awareness and program expansions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce considered the previous advice and recommendations in its Interim Report.¹⁸ The Taskforce further notes the ongoing engagement between DCJ, Police, the DFV sector and other sectors on coercive control training for frontline agencies (see pp. 31-33, 39).
	Training demand in the DFV sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members advised there was insufficient allocation and high demand for DCJ's funded training for DFSV practitioners. Initially, 1,000 places were offered for face-to-face training between June and November 2024 with further webinars planned for 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce noted the members' recommendation and advice from DCJ that funding had been made available to expand the training. The priority locations for in-person training were further discussed between DCJ and the Independent member.
	Training focused on children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member recommended that frontline workers (police, judiciary, educators, child protection caseworkers) should receive youth-focused training on recognising and responding to coercive control, especially when children are indirectly affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people including as witnesses to abuse and as victims in their own right. Training about coercive control for frontline workers including police, the judiciary,

¹⁸ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Interim Report* (December 2024), <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-taskforce-interim-report-december-24.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025), 17.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
			and legal practitioners has been developed and delivered since 2023 as outlined in previous Taskforce reports. ¹⁹ DCJ has delivered training to over 2,000 DFV practitioners (supported by an Advisory Group including youth advocates) and is finalising training for child protection caseworkers. DCJ will deliver further training in 2025-26 for early childhood, disability, multicultural and settlement, youth and family support workers.
	Legal representation and support for children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member recommended that children and young people involved as witnesses or affected parties should have access to legal advice and trauma-informed advocacy services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce considered the recommendation and acknowledged the importance of providing legal and support services to children and young people. However, it was noted this is beyond the remit of the Taskforce. The Taskforce notes there are services in NSW which may address the issues raised – for example, the Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program, Legal Aid’s Youth Hotline, and the Witness Assistance Service.
	Access to justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member recommended adequate support for people with disability to access and navigate the criminal justice system. Another member noted, for the Taskforce’s information, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW Ageing and Disability Commission has been engaged by the NSW Police Force to participate in filming for training around coercive control and certain priority populations, including people with disability and older people. The NSW Ageing and Disability Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce considered issues raised by Members and acknowledges the barriers to people with disability in accessing justice. The concerns about access to justice were considered as part of the Interim Report.²⁰ The Taskforce acknowledged the concerns and noted that while access to justice is beyond its main scope, Government programs outside the Taskforce’s remit may address some of these concerns. The Taskforce acknowledges the critical role of the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission and thanks them for their

¹⁹ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, ‘Coercive control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce’. <<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police--legal-help-and-the-law/criminalising-coercive-control-in-nsw/coercive-control-implementation-and-evaluation-taskforce.html>>, accessed 4 June 2025.

²⁰ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Interim Report* (December 2024), <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-taskforce-interim-report-december-24.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025), 18.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
		has made some referrals to the NSW Police Force, including one which resulted in an apprehended violence order with conditions tailored to prohibiting interference.	continued provision of training to criminal justice agencies on coercive control experienced by older people and people with disability.
	Community awareness campaigns and further education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference Group members queried the community education campaign evaluation methodology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce acknowledges the interest in the campaign evaluation and thanks members for their ongoing engagement. Further information on the evaluation was provided to Reference Group members in March 2025 and has been reproduced in this report on page 38.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two members reiterated recommendations for continued community awareness work, comprehensive training and education on coercive control in relation to people with disability and expanding access to the awareness resources in further languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce previously considered this advice as part of the Interim Report.²¹ The Taskforce thanked members for their ongoing engagement and support, and acknowledged campaign evaluations, ongoing consultations for community awareness and work of the NSW Police Force. Since the Interim Report was tabled and following campaign evaluations and consultation with reference group members, two tailored campaigns were launched for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> culturally and linguistically diverse communities (see pp. 33-34) older people and people with a disability (see p. 34).
Monitoring	Number of coercive control charges and cohorts represented in monitoring data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference Group members have expressed strong interest in the number and type of charges proceeding, and the cohorts, behaviours and interventions which should be reflected in monitoring reports. Member queries and advice on the BOCSAR data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce considers the advice on data from Reference Groups at its quarterly meetings. The Taskforce acknowledges concerns of Reference Group members that charges have not proceeded in some matters reported to police and some cohorts or areas appear unrepresented in the available data. The Taskforce notes the limited data available in the early phase of the reform and that the qualitative research (see p. 14) will capture the

²¹ Ibid, 18.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
		<p>have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why charges had not proceeded in almost 60% of matters reported between July and December 2024. ○ The March 2025 data does not reflect the experiences of older people, as coercive and controlling behaviours are well known by the sector in this cohort. Future BOCSAR reports could have a further age breakdown of the 60+ age measure, noting that issues faced by a person in their 60s may be markedly different from a person in their 80s. ○ Section 1.2 of the BOCSAR monitoring reports covering nature of controlling behaviours should include sexual and reproductive coercion. ○ LGBTQIA+ relationships should be recognised in data. ○ The BOCSAR reports could monitor net widening interventions impacting children and young people. ○ Impact of the offence on CALD communities should be reflected in BOCSAR data, including the collection of more detailed data on the kinds of behaviours being captured (i.e behaviours that make up ‘cultural abuse’). ○ There is a lack of reports in some Local Government Areas which may reflect that that some communities may choose not to report abuse to police. 	<p>interests of many Reference Group members. The Taskforce further notes the advice of NSW Police Force to stakeholders that the slower rise in charges may not reflect the number of matters which remain under active investigation and that coercive control investigations are complex and are expected to take time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOCSAR will continue to adapt the quarterly monitoring report to the available data on the coercive control offence and other domestic violence offences as suitable and in consultation on Computerised Operational Policing System data points. The age range of victims and perpetrators can be detailed in the reports where sufficient data exists. Same-sex relationships have been included following interest expressed by Reference Group members. The Taskforce will continue to consider this data and the insights of Reference Group members. • The Taskforce acknowledges the additional barriers faced by regional communities in reporting domestic abuse to police. It further notes the ongoing work by NSW Police Force on this issue. • The Taskforce has previously considered feedback on including data for additional cohorts in BOCSAR reports in the Interim Report.²² The Taskforce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acknowledged previous consultation on the BOCSAR reports. ○ Noted that not all data requested by stakeholders is captured in administrative data, but BOCSAR is exploring ways to include more data where possible. ○ BOCSAR is considering possible disability data held within NSW Police and DCJ systems that could be routinely linked to BOCSAR records. These are long term propositions and will require funding to implement.

²² Ibid, 17.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There may be barriers to reporting in regional and remote communities where people are well known to each other, and where police may be accused of abuse. ○ There should be additional data collection on coercive control involving people with disability. ○ Section 54J(2)(k) of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> should require disaggregated data on the age of accused persons and victims-survivors to monitor the application and impact of the offence on young people. 	
Legislation	<p>Coercive control offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 54D(1)(b),(c) • Section 54F(2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members reiterated their long-term advocacy to amend or monitor the legislation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The mental element (revision) – <i>remove the requirement to prove intent and adopt the ‘recklessness’ element of earlier drafts</i> ○ Scope of relationships captured by the offence (revision) – <i>expand the legislation to include all domestic relationships and non-family relationships, not just intimate partner relationships, particularly to acknowledge the experiences of people with disability.</i> ○ Non-exhaustive list of behaviours (revision) – <i>specifically name sexual violence as an example of abusive behaviour</i> ○ Misidentification of the primary aggressor (monitoring) – <i>closely monitor the impact of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Taskforce acknowledges the interest of members to amend elements of the offence, and thanks Reference Group members for their ongoing engagement in the reform. The Taskforce has previously considered this feedback as part of the Interim Report.²³ • The Taskforce notes that as at June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The legislation has not been tested in NSW courts. Its impact will continue to be monitored in consultation with Reference Groups. ○ The issues raised will be considered as part of the statutory review with section 54J, commencing in mid-2026. This will provide adequate time for judicial consideration and a broader understanding of the impact of the limiting factors of the offence.

²³ Ibid, 20.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
		<i>the coercive control legislation on the rates of misidentification.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The advocacy to expand the offence's scope is acknowledged, however, the current settings reflect NSW Parliament's intentions and extensive training. ○ The offence's impact will be monitored and its application to other relationships considered during the statutory review to assess gaps and system impacts.
Statutory review under section 54J of Crimes Act	Approach to the statutory review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members have expressed interest in understanding the approach to the 2026 statutory review and recommended it should consider utilising additional datasets, including from Domestic Violence Death Review Team reports and data from education, health and child protection that may relate to coercive control. There was further interest in including data for other offences such as intimidation and stalking. • Members noted the issues which will be covered by the statutory review, including whether to extend the offence to other domestic relationships. • Members have also proposed research to inform the Taskforce and made suggestions for the September forum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Taskforce noted the recommendations from members and that DCJ will undertake the statutory review on behalf of the Attorney General. The Taskforce and Reference Groups will be consulted as part of this process. The Taskforce noted the ongoing commitment of Reference Group members and acknowledged these members have been engaged at least since the Joint Select Committee Inquiry and in consultation on the Bill. The Taskforce will continue to inform members as plans progress for the statutory review, which is required to commence in mid-2026. • The Taskforce thanks members for their suggestions and will develop the agenda for the September forum based on their advice and availability of speakers.
Reference Groups	Cross pollination between Reference Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Reference Group members recommended further opportunities for Reference Groups to engage with each other to promote cross pollination and to engage with criminal justice agencies to consider in depth concerns about the operation of the offence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Taskforce supported this recommendation and noted positive feedback from the Reference Groups about the collaborative approach to the reform. • Cross pollination and collaboration were built into the revised governance to monitor the coercive control offence.

Table 5: Reference Group advice July 2024 – June 2025

Issue	Summary	Description	Taskforce consideration
	Lived Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members recommended they provide a statement to the people of NSW about their experience in being a part of the Lived Expertise Reference Group and the importance of lived expertise in implementing the coercive control offence. The statement will also state why criminalising coercive control is important to them and what the group hopes to carry forward from their experience in the reform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce warmly welcomed this recommendation and acknowledged the incredible contributions made by members to the reform. The Taskforce Secretariat supported the Independent member and members of the Lived Expertise Reference Group to develop the statement. The statement is included at pages 7-9 of this report.
	Children and Youth Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One member recommended that a youth and children's reference group be formalised under section 54I(5) and (6) of the Crimes Act with representation from youth services, advocates, survivors, and young people with lived experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce thanks the member for their advocacy on the provisions for Reference Groups. The Taskforce notes that the current settings reflect the intention of NSW Parliament. The Secretariat surveyed members on their preferences for engagement on the reform and Ministers approved a restructure to Reference Groups in 2024, as detailed in the Interim Report. Reference Group members of the former Children and Youth Reference Group remain engaged across the Government, Legal and Community Sector Reference Groups. This aligned with feedback supporting cross-pollination between groups and recognition of the shared interest in expanding the offence to broader relationships among some stakeholders. Lived experience informs the Taskforce's monitoring of the offence including via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> former lived expertise reference group members who may attend annual forums the independent qualitative research into the experience of domestic and family violence victim-survivors in the NSW criminal justice system in a post-coercive control landscape, and the NSW Government Lived Experience Advisory Group.

Training, community awareness, qualitative research and resourcing

Police training and community engagement

The NSW Police Force's coercive control training and community engagement is led by the Domestic and Family Violence Command (DFVC).

Employee Recruitment

To support coercive control legislation and implementation of the offence, the DFVC created two temporary unsworn positions for a period of two years: Clerk Grades 11/12 and 5/6. The primary objective of these positions is to:

- enhance organisational and community awareness
- extend trauma informed interactions and processes
- address any legislative gaps
- improve victim-survivor safety
- educate to prevent offending behaviours.

The integration of these positions will bolster organisational capacity to deliver quality assurance as well as pioneer initiatives informed by cutting-edge research from both local and international sources.

Continuous Training and Development

The DFVC has designed and implemented numerous training initiatives to maximise ongoing, seamless coercive control education, including a lived experience educational video, to broaden officers' insight into the breadth and complexity of coercive control abusive behaviours, considerations when engaging diverse communities and to ensure trauma informed responses.

Specifically, to enhance frontline capability in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting coercive control, the DFVC, in collaboration with the People and Capability Command, has developed a mandatory lived experience training program. That training also included collaboration with Taskforce and Reference Group members, including Multicultural NSW, Full Stop Australia, ACON, Ageing and Disability Commission, Domestic Violence NSW and Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program. This initiative will be rolled out to all police officers and selected unsworn employees from mid-2025, ensuring a consistent and trauma-informed approach across the organisation.

Building on existing professional development pathways, coercive control content is being integrated into key training programs. The Constable Development Program, compulsory for officers in their first five years of service, and the Detective Education Program, will include targeted modules focused on recognising and responding to coercive control dynamics.

In addition to formal training, the DFVC delivers tailored workshops to Police Area Commands and Police Districts, equipping officers with practical tools to identify red flags and patterns of

abuse that may not be immediately evident at the scene. These workshops are informed by ongoing consultation with frontline officers to ensure relevance and responsiveness to operational needs.

To further support officers in the field, the DFVC has developed coercive control notebook cards. These resources include sample questions, behavioural indicators, and high-risk warning signs, enabling general duties officers to look beyond the incident and identify broader patterns of controlling behaviour within relationships.

This comprehensive, multi-layered approach reflects a commitment to continuous learning, operational excellence, and victim-centred policing in the response to coercive control.

The overarching objectives of the DFVC education, training and products are to:

- provide ongoing development and extension of coercive control knowledge
- deepen officers' insights into associated abusive behaviours
- provide continuous development in trauma-informed interactions and responses.

Community Focused Education package

The DFVC has created and delivered education to enhance NSW communities' understanding and reporting of coercive control abusive behaviours including:

- a community focused coercive control education package to be delivered to local communities by Police Area Commands and Police Districts, upon request, and
- a lived experience video to enhance NSW communities' awareness and understanding of coercive control abusive behaviours.

The DFVC has partnered with Multicultural NSW to translate community based educational videos into multiple languages to better inform culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The videos are available on the NSW Police Force website.²⁴

Judicial officer training and education

Training delivered by the Judicial Commission of NSW continues to focus on domestic violence, including coercive control and court advocacy programs. The training is delivered in Local Court small group workshops for all Magistrates throughout NSW. These include domestic violence workshops and related training as outlined in Table 6 below.

The Judicial Commission of NSW will continue to monitor and update the judiciary through the closed judicial website JIRS and training, as necessary.

²⁴ NSW Police Force, 'Domestic and Family Violence: Lived experience'.

<https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/domestic_and_family_violence/lived_experience>, accessed 4 June 2025. Content for the lived experience videos was gleaned from the NSW Police Force DFVC 2024 conference, The Silent Crime.

Table 6: Judicial Officer training		
Workshop date	Audience	Subject
9 September 2024	Cross-jurisdictional webinar	'Memory in the Legal Setting' topic
11-15 November 2024	Metropolitan magistrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic violence refresher – legislative updates, defended hearings, bails, sentencing, and ADVOs workshop. Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program presentation
12-14 March 2025	Southern region magistrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic violence refresher – legislative updates, defended hearings, bails, sentencing, and ADVOs workshop. Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program presentation
2 -4 April 2025	Northern region magistrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic violence refresher – legislative updates, defended hearings, bails, sentencing, and ADVOs workshop. Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program presentation.

Community awareness campaigns

The NSW Government committed to delivering public education campaigns in response to Recommendation 9 of the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control.²⁵

A phased communications approach was adopted to align with the implementation of the legislation and meet the needs of NSW's diverse communities. Details of the strategy and stakeholder consultation, including extensive input from the Taskforce and Reference Groups, are outlined in earlier reports.²⁶

Targeted campaign expansion – priority populations

In 2024–25, two additional tailored campaigns were developed in consultation with the Taskforce and relevant Reference Groups. These campaigns respond to ongoing sector advice about the specific experiences of coercive control among at-risk populations.

CALD communities – phase two

The second phase of the CALD campaign builds on earlier efforts to increase awareness and understanding of coercive control in additional language groups. The campaign targets communities

²⁵ NSW Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control, Coercive Control in Domestic Relationships, Report1/57 (June 2021). <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ladocs/inquiries/2626/Report%20-%20coercive%20control%20in%20domestic%20relationships.pdf>, (retrieved 4 June 2025).

²⁶ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, 'Coercive control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce'. <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police--legal-help-and-the-law/criminalising-coercive-control-in-nsw/coercive-control-implementation-and-evaluation-taskforce.html>, accessed 4 June 2025.

who speak Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, Assyrian, Farsi and Punjabi. It launched on 4 May 2025 and will run for two months.

The campaign was informed by consultation with the Taskforce and CALD Communities Reference Group, community consultation and testing with ten language-specific focus groups. The focus groups provided a culturally safe environment for feedback on campaign messages and creative concepts.

Delivered through a multicultural media partnership funded and facilitated by the Department of Customer Service (DCS), the campaign includes social media and in-language media placements across radio, digital and community owned channels. Additional in-language fact sheets were also developed to support further information sharing.²⁷

An evaluation will be completed following the conclusion of the campaign and reported in late 2025.

Older people and people with disability

This campaign aims to raise awareness of coercive control among older people and people with disability in intimate partner and domestic settings. The campaign launched on 16 May 2025 and will run for two months.

Funded through DCS, the campaign includes a print-first media strategy featuring advertisements in every regional newspaper across NSW, ensuring messages reach the target audiences in their local communities. The campaign is also supported by social media.

A dedicated campaign webpage was developed to host tailored resources, including print ads and social media tiles, existing animated explainer videos, an Easy Read factsheet, Auslan videos and links to appropriate support services.²⁸ The content was designed to be accessible and inclusive.

An evaluation will be completed following the conclusion of the campaign and reported in late 2025.

Qualitative research considering the experience of domestic abuse victim-survivors in the NSW criminal justice system

As part of its workplan, the Taskforce is overseeing an interview study to understand the experience of domestic and family violence victim-survivors who have had contact with the criminal justice system following the commencement of the coercive control offence in July 2024. The research description was detailed in the Taskforce's Interim Report.²⁹ The work is led by BOCSAR and the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner.

The Taskforce will consider the research outcomes to assist in monitoring the coercive control offence.

²⁷ NSW Government, Family and Relationships, Coercive Control, 'Translated resources'. <<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/coercive-control/languages>>, accessed 4 June 2025.

²⁸ NSW Government, Coercive Control: Information for older people and people with disability. <<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/coercive-control/disability-and-older-people>>, accessed 4 June 2025.

²⁹ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Interim Report* (December 2024). <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-taskforce-interim-report-december-24.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025), 26-27

An Expression of Interest process was conducted from March 2025, and it is anticipated that the research will commence in July 2025.

Resourcing

The Government Reference Group has indicated the reform has had minimal impact on the criminal justice system in its first year of operation.

Domestic Violence NSW continues to advocate for increased baseline funding including to support referrals arising from the coercive control reform. The Taskforce notes funding for domestic and family violence services is managed through the usual budget process.

The Taskforce will continue to consider the advice of Reference Groups on the resourcing impact of the offence.

Evaluation of implementation of the offence

Section 54I(3)(d) of the *Crimes Act 1900* (the **Crimes Act**) requires the Taskforce to evaluate implementation of the coercive control offence and resourcing in relation to the coercive control offence. The implementation workstreams are outlined below, followed by the evaluation which has occurred to date and plans for reporting on further evaluation.

Implementation workstreams

- **Workstream 1 – Training and Education:** comprehensive education and training provided on the nature of coercive control and the NSW reform to:
 - Sworn and unsworn NSW Police Force staff
 - Office of Director of Public Prosecutions, solicitors, Witness Assistance Service Officers, Crown Prosecutors
 - Legal Aid practitioners (extended to the Aboriginal Legal Service and Community Legal Centres, private practitioners and domestic and family violence specialist workers)
 - Judicial officers across the Local, District and Supreme Courts.
- **Workstream 2 – Operational Systems:** updates to operating systems to record and assist monitoring of the coercive control offence.
- **Workstream 3 – Community Awareness:** delivery of multiple community awareness campaigns to promote understanding of coercive control, including:
 - Phase 1: educational website
 - Phase 2: broad advertising campaign
 - Phase 3: tailored campaigns for First Nations communities and culturally and linguistically diverse (**CALD**) communities.

Community awareness campaigns

The phased communications approach is outlined above and in earlier reports.³⁰ A campaign report was also published in February 2025.³¹ A summary of this report is outlined below.

Phase one – coercive control website

A dedicated coercive control website launched on 30 August 2023.³² It provides accessible information and educational resources, including campaign videos and materials designed for priority populations.

Results

As at 31 January 2025, the website had received 630,848 total engaged views and at launch, reached the highest weekly view ranking on nsw.gov.au. It continues to serve as a central source of credible, up-to-date information on coercive control.

Phase two – broad public awareness campaign

The public awareness campaign ran from 1 May to 1 November 2024. It featured four videos depicting scenarios of coercive control in intimate partner relationships and was delivered across social media, digital platforms, podcasts, out-of-home advertising (e.g. gyms, restrooms) and through partner organisations. Campaign assets were distributed to workplaces, universities and medical centres.

Results

The campaign met its primary objective to raise awareness and understanding of coercive control:

- **Awareness and understanding:** Post-campaign research found that 50% of respondents claimed both awareness of coercive control and understanding of its meaning (up from 40% pre-campaign).
- **Knowledge of behaviours:** Those able to identify at least one behaviour (e.g. threats, gaslighting) increased from 21% to 33%.
- **Engagement and impact:** Over 49 million impressions were delivered (64% above the target), with over 4 million completed video views. More than three in four respondents aware of the campaign reported taking positive action (e.g. discussing coercive control, seeking more information or reflecting on their own or other relationships).
- **Trusted messaging:** Key messages resonated strongly, and content was perceived as clear, relatable and believable.

³⁰ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, 'Coercive control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce'.

<<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police--legal-help-and-the-law/criminalising-coercive-control-in-nsw/coercive-control-implementation-and-evaluation-taskforce.html>>, accessed 4 June 2025.

³¹ Department of Communities and Justice 2025, Coercive Control Campaign Report. <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-campaign-summary.pdf>> (retrieved 4 June 2025).

³² NSW Government, Coercive Control. <<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/coercive-control>>, accessed 4 June 2025.

Table 7 outlines a summary of the campaign results.

The campaign launch was also promoted on major news outlets including Channel 7, 9, 10, ABC and SBS as well as key stories in the Daily Telegraph and The Guardian.

Table 7: Campaign results summary		
Campaign measurement	Target	Result
Increased awareness % who claim to be aware of the term coercive control	68%	77%
Increased understanding % who claim to be aware of the term coercive control and know what it means	40%	50%
Informative The ads are informative	85%	87%
Believability I found the message of the ad to be believable	86%	87%
Behaviour change % who claim to have already taken some form of positive action in relation to coercive control as a result of seeing the campaign (among those previously aware of the campaign)	60%	76%

***Note:** these targets are informed by NSW Government advertising guidelines for campaigns over \$250k, as well as independent market research and audience testing prior to campaign launch.*

Phase three (tailored campaigns)

Tailored campaigns for CALD and First Nations audiences ran from May to July 2024. Both were developed in close consultation with the CALD Communities Reference Group and the First Nations Communities Reference Group.

CALD Communities

The CALD campaign was developed in partnership with the CALD Communities Reference Group and supported by extensive community consultation and testing. It used in-language radio, digital ads and social media to reach Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Vietnamese communities. The campaign highlighted the new laws and cultural nuances in coercive control behaviours.

Results

- Over 664,000 users reached via Chinese-based apps.
- Nearly 246,000 Vietnamese and Arabic users reached via Meta platforms.
- Extended reach (+13%) via radio and press bonus activity.

- In-language resources were promoted via SBS and distributed to community leaders and organisations.

First Nations Communities

The First Nations campaign was co-designed with the First Nations Communities Reference Group and a First Nations-owned creative agency. The campaign focused on healthy relationships and featured trusted ambassadors sharing stories via vodcasts and social media.

Results

- Over 135,000 vodcast views.
- Reached 78,000 social media accounts.
- 163 video shares with 100% positive sentiment.
- Toolkit shared with 392 organisations.

Campaign evaluation process

The coercive control campaign evaluations were based on formative research on people aged 16+ years across NSW, indicating (among other things) that 32% of people had never heard of the term 'coercive control', and a further 28% had heard the term but did not know what it meant. This data was then used to inform the campaign approach, including how to phase information and who to target based on those who had the lowest awareness levels. This resulted in the campaign's primary audience being people aged 16-39, with the broader NSW population as secondary.

Post-campaign research focuses on measuring the effectiveness of a campaign, usually in terms of awareness, engagement, and immediate perceptions among the target audience and not the general population. It often uses surveys to collect responses from participants who represent the target group about what they recall or claim to know, such as whether they have heard of a term or concept and how they feel about it after exposure to a campaign.

This post-campaign research measured claimed awareness of the term 'coercive control' and its associated behaviours through an online quantitative survey to a representative sample of NSW residents aged 16-39, including people from Aboriginal and culturally diverse backgrounds (N=755 residents representative of NSW community, including 28% CALD communities and 15% First Nations communities).

The survey asked respondents 'have you heard the term 'coercive control' before?' This provided the result outlined in the campaign report that indicated 1 in 2 people now claim 'yes, and I understand what it means'.

Campaign results are based on claimed responses because surveys are self-reported, and it does not require further analysis such as follow up interviews. Research was conducted by an independent research agency.

Education and Training

Criminal justice agencies

The Taskforce notes the advice of criminal justice agencies and the limited coercive control charges which have proceeded through the criminal justice system as at June 2025. The limited charges which have proceeded limits the capacity of agencies to assess the impact of their training programs. Some agencies are further continuing to deliver training.³³

DFSV Specialists and other frontline sectors

The Department of Communities and Justice has delivered a statewide coercive control training program to over 2,000 domestic and family violence specialists in the non-government sector.

The training for domestic and family violence specialists included:

- Free one-day face-to-face workshops for approximately 2,000 sector workers delivered across NSW. Seventy-five workshops were held between June 2024 and April 2025.
- Six online webinars based on areas of interest following sector feedback, delivered between February and June 2025.

Further training is being developed and delivered to sectors in 2025-26 including early childhood, disability, multicultural and settlement, youth and family support workers.

As this training continues to be delivered, the evaluation of this training will be considered as part of the statutory review under section 54J of the Crimes Act.

Further evaluation of implementation

The Taskforce will report further on its evaluation of implementation and resourcing in its next report required under section 54I(8) of the Crimes Act, which is due to the Attorney General in July 2026. Training evaluation will also be considered in the first statutory review under section 54J which is to be tabled in Parliament in 2027.

This period will provide sufficient time for matters to proceed through the criminal justice system and will likely indicate whether agency training has had the expected impact.

Evaluation of training will be informed by the agencies which led the training, which is detailed in this and previous Taskforce reports.³⁴

³³ It is noted NSW Police Force are continuing to deliver training (see pp. 31-32).

³⁴ NSW Government, 'Coercive control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce', *Communities and Justice*. <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police--legal-help-and-the-law/criminalising-coercive-control-in-nsw/coercive-control-implementation-and-evaluation-taskforce.html>> , accessed 4 June 2025.

Developments in other Australian jurisdictions

The Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce (the **Taskforce**) provides advice to the Attorney General, in accordance with Section 54I(3)(f) of the *Crimes Act 1900* (the **Crimes Act**), about other matters related to sections 54I(a)–(e) of the Crimes Act or the coercive control offence.

The Taskforce has considered the status of coercive control reforms in other jurisdictions and provides the advice in Table 8 below to the Attorney General for information.

The Taskforce also notes that Standing Council of Attorneys-General released the National Principles to Address Coercive Control in Family and Domestic Violence on 22 September 2023. They set out a shared understanding of the common features and impacts of coercive control, as well as guiding considerations to inform responses to this issue.




Table 8: Coercive control legislation in other Australian jurisdictions		
Jurisdiction	Legislation status and details	Implementation activities
Queensland 	Legislation commenced, all domestic relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2025, a standalone offence was introduced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024</i> commenced on 26 May 2025. This amended Schedule 1 of the <i>Criminal Code Act 1899</i> to introduce an offence of coercive control punishable by up to 14 years' imprisonment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community awareness campaign launched in August 2024. Dedicated webpage. Training launched prior to commencement of legislation, including online modules for government, non-government and community groups.
Tasmania 	Legislation commenced, limited to some behaviours only* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, two standalone offences were introduced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Family Violence Act 2004</i> commenced in March 2005. It introduced two criminal offences for economic abuse and emotional abuse/intimidation, both punishable by up to two years imprisonment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No campaign as such, but recent training was announced in November 2024 for government and non-government organisations, and in March 2025 for practitioners, frontline response services (including the police), courts and support services. Dedicated web page.
Australian Capital Territory 	Legislation pending following campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no standalone offence. The ACT Government will consider introducing legislation to criminalise coercive control following the community awareness campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community awareness campaign launched in May 2025 (licenced from NSW Department of Communities and Justice). Dedicated webpage. Announced training for frontline agencies, such as ACT Policing and the Courts (consulting NSW agencies on training).

Table 8: Coercive control legislation in other Australian jurisdictions





Jurisdiction	Legislation status and details	Implementation activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced funding boost for frontline response services, and to expand male violence prevention programs.
South Australia 	Bill has been introduced into Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A standalone offence has been proposed in a Bill currently before Parliament. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2024 was introduced in the SA Parliament on 29 August 2024. It proposes to introduce a coercive control offence with a maximum penalty of up to 7 years' imprisonment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community awareness campaign, including a dedicated website, launched in March 2023. Stakeholder consultation in 2022-23 looked at training for justice system authorities, though it's not clear whether this has been rolled out yet.
Western Australia 	First tranche of reforms commenced, no legislation for standalone offence yet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WA Government is taking a phased approach to criminalising coercive control. There is currently no standalone offence. In 2024, coercive control was added into the definition of family violence in relation to restraining orders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Family Violence Legislation Reform Act 2024</i> commenced on 14 November 2024, which amended the <i>Restraining Orders Act 1997</i> to introduce a reference to the patterned nature of coercive control behaviours and their cumulative effect in the definition of family violence. This sought to improve the application process for restraining orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community awareness campaigns launched in September 2024. The next phase launched in May 2025. Dedicated webpage.
Northern Territory 	No legislation for standalone offence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no standalone offence. In 2024, a definition of coercive control was introduced in relation to domestic violence order legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Justice Legislation Amendment (Domestic and Family Violence) Act 2023</i> commenced on 25 March 2024, which amended the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007</i> to introduce a definition of coercive control. This allows courts to consider coercive control when considering applications for DV 	N/A

Table 8: Coercive control legislation in other Australian jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Legislation status and details	Implementation activities
	orders and where a person breaches an order.	
Victoria 	No legislation for standalone offence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no standalone offence. In 2008, a definition of coercive control was introduced in relation to domestic violence order legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Family Violence Protection Act 2008</i> commenced in 2008. It defines family violence as including coercive and controlling behaviour and includes definitions of economic abuse and emotional or psychological abuse. 	N/A

Statutory review of the offence

Section 54J of the Crimes Act requires statutory reviews of the coercive control offence. Three reviews are required, with the first to begin two years after the offence commences (that is, in July 2026).

Section 54J(2) also outlines the issues to be considered by the statutory reviews, including matters of interest to Reference Group members and other stakeholders. These issues were identified during development, consultation and passage of the Bill, and are outlined in **Appendix 1**. They include:

- the impact of the offence on particular cohorts
- whether the mental element of the offence should be extended to include recklessness
- whether victims of the offence may be misidentified as the perpetrator
- the effectiveness of training on the offence by criminal justice agencies.

The Interim Report, tabled in February 2025, detailed the approach to the statutory review including potential data which will be drawn upon.³⁵

The operation of the Queensland offence which commenced in May 2025 will further be of particular relevance to the NSW statutory review. The Queensland offence applies to all domestic relationships, whereas the NSW offence is limited to intimate partner relationships. The statutory review must consider expanding the scope of relationships to all domestic relationships (section 54J(2)(b)).

The Taskforce will consider the experience of Queensland as relevant data becomes available.

³⁵ NSW Government, Department of Communities and Justice, *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 Interim Report* (December 2024). <<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/children-and-families/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/police-legal-help-and-the-law/coercive-control-taskforce-interim-report-december-24.pdf>>, (retrieved 4 June 2025).

Future reporting

The next report of the Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce (**the Taskforce**), required under section 54I(8) of the *Crimes Act 1900* (**Crimes Act**), must be tabled in both Houses of Parliament at least every 12 months after the commencement of the coercive control offence. The next report will be tabled in July 2026.

The next report will outline:

- evaluation of implementation activity in accordance with section 54I(3)(d) of the Crimes Act
- data and advice on monitoring the coercive control offence
- consultation with Reference Groups on the operation of the offence
- advice to the Attorney General about any other related matters
- process and consultation for the first statutory review required under section 54J.

Section 54J of the Crimes Act requires statutory reviews of the coercive control offence. Three reviews are required, with the first to begin two years after the offence commences (that is, in July 2026). The first review will report in July 2027.

Appendices

1. Part 3 Division 6A of *Crimes Act 1900* – Abusive behaviour towards intimate partners
2. Reference Group member organisations

Appendix 1: Part 3 Division 6A of *Crimes Act 1900* – Abusive behaviour towards intimate partners

54C Definitions

In this Division—

abusive behaviour—see section 54F.

adult means an individual who is 18 years of age or older.

course of conduct—see section 54G.

intimate partner, of a person (the **first person**), means a person who—

- (a) is or has been married to the first person, or
- (b) is or has been a de facto partner of the first person, or

Note—

“De facto partner” is defined in the [Interpretation Act 1987](#), section 21C.

- (c) has or has had an intimate personal relationship with the first person, whether or not the intimate relationship involves or has involved a relationship of a sexual nature.

intimidation, of a person, has the same meaning as in the [Crimes \(Domestic and Personal Violence\) Act 2007](#).

stalking has the same meaning as in the [Crimes \(Domestic and Personal Violence\) Act 2007](#).

54D Abusive behaviour towards current or former intimate partners

- (1) An adult commits an offence if—

- (a) the adult engages in a course of conduct against another person that consists of abusive behaviour, and
- (b) the adult and other person are or were intimate partners, and
- (c) the adult intends the course of conduct to coerce or control the other person, and
- (d) a reasonable person would consider the course of conduct would be likely, in all the circumstances, to cause any or all of the following, whether or not the fear or impact is in fact caused—
 - (i) fear that violence will be used against the other person or another person, or
 - (ii) a serious adverse impact on the capacity of the other person to engage in some or all of the person’s ordinary day-to-day activities.

Maximum penalty—Imprisonment for 7 years.

- (2) For subsection (1)(a)—

- (a) the course of conduct may be constituted by any combination of abusive behaviours, and

- (b) whether the course of conduct consists of abusive behaviour must be assessed by considering the totality of the behaviours.

54E Defence

- (1) In proceedings for an offence under section 54D(1), it is a defence if the course of conduct was reasonable in all the circumstances.
- (2) For subsection (1), that the course of conduct was reasonable in all the circumstances is taken to be proven if—
- (a) evidence adduced is capable of raising an issue as to whether the course of conduct is reasonable in all the circumstances, and
- (b) the prosecution does not prove beyond reasonable doubt that the course of conduct is not reasonable in all the circumstances.

54F Meaning of “abusive behaviour”

- (1) In this Division, *abusive behaviour* means behaviour that consists of or involves—
- (a) violence or threats against, or intimidation of, a person, or
- (b) coercion or control of the person against whom the behaviour is directed.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), engaging in, or threatening to engage in, the following behaviour may constitute *abusive behaviour*—
- (a) behaviour that causes harm to a child if a person fails to comply with demands made of the person,
- (b) behaviour that causes harm to the person against whom the behaviour is directed, or another adult, if the person fails to comply with demands made of the person,
- (c) behaviour that is economically or financially abusive,

Examples for paragraph (c)—

- withholding financial support necessary for meeting the reasonable living expenses of a person, or another person living with or dependent on the person, in circumstances in which the person is dependent on the financial support to meet the person’s living expenses
 - preventing, or unreasonably restricting or regulating, a person seeking or keeping employment or having access to or control of the person’s income or financial assets, including financial assets held jointly with another person
- (d) behaviour that shames, degrades or humiliates,
- (e) behaviour that directly or indirectly harasses a person, or monitors or tracks a person’s activities, communications or movements, whether by physically following the person, using technology or in another way,
- (f) behaviour that causes damage to or destruction of property,
- (g) behaviour that prevents the person from doing any of the following or otherwise isolates the person—
- (i) making or keeping connections with the person’s family, friends or culture,

- (ii) participating in cultural or spiritual ceremonies or practice,
- (iii) expressing the person's cultural identity,
- (h) behaviour that causes injury or death to an animal, or otherwise makes use of an animal to threaten a person,
- (i) behaviour that deprives a person of liberty, restricts a person's liberty or otherwise unreasonably controls or regulates a person's day-to-day activities.

Examples for paragraph (i)—

- making unreasonable demands about how a person exercises the person's personal, social or sexual autonomy and making threats of negative consequences for failing to comply with the demands
- denying a person access to basic necessities including food, clothing or sleep
- withholding necessary medical or other care, support, aids, equipment or essential support services from a person or compelling the person to take medication or undertake medical procedures

54G Meaning of “course of conduct”

- (1) In this Division, a *course of conduct* means engaging in behaviour—
 - (a) either repeatedly or continuously, or
 - (b) both repeatedly and continuously.
- (2) For subsection (1), behaviour does not have to be engaged in—
 - (a) as an unbroken series of incidents, or
 - (b) in immediate succession.
- (3) For subsection (1), a course of conduct includes behaviour engaged in
 - (a) in this State, and
 - (b) in this State and another jurisdiction.

54H Procedural requirements

- (1) In proceedings for an offence under section 54D(1)—
 - (a) if a specific incident of abusive behaviour is alleged to form part of the course of conduct, the prosecution is not required to allege the particulars that would be necessary if the incident were charged as a separate offence, but
 - (b) the prosecution is required to allege—
 - (i) the nature and description of the behaviours that amount to the course of conduct, and
 - (ii) the particulars of the period of time over which the course of conduct took place.
- (2) For the accused to be convicted of an offence under section 54D(1), the trier of fact—
 - (a) must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the evidence establishes a course of conduct that consists of abusive behaviour, and

- (b) is not required to be satisfied of the particulars of any specific incident of behaviour alleged to form part of the course of conduct that it would have to be satisfied of if the incident were charged as a separate offence.

Note—

This Division does not affect the common law in relation to double jeopardy.

54I Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce

- (1) The Minister must establish a Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce.
- (2) The taskforce is to include the following members appointed by the Minister—
 - (a) the Secretary of the department in which this Act is administered, who is to be the chairperson of the taskforce,
 - (b) a representative of the NSW Police Force,
 - (c) the chair of the Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council,
 - (d) a member from the domestic and family violence sector with substantial expertise and experience in domestic and family violence service delivery.
- (3) The main purposes of the taskforce are as follows—
 - (a) to consult with stakeholders, including reference groups established under this section, about the offence under section 54D (the *coercive control offence*) and related matters,
 - (b) to provide advice about, and monitor, training, education and resourcing in relation to the coercive control offence,
 - (c) to provide advice about the commencement dates of, and interaction between, the definition of *domestic abuse* in the [Crimes \(Domestic and Personal Violence\) Act 2007](#), section 6A and the coercive control offence,
 - (d) to evaluate implementation of the coercive control offence and resourcing in relation to the coercive control offence,
 - (e) to monitor the operation of this Division, including
 - (i) the practical application of defences to the coercive control offence, and
 - (ii) resourcing in relation to the operation of the Division,
 - (f) to provide advice to the Minister about other matters related to a matter in paragraph (a)–(e) or the coercive control offence.
- (4) The chairperson of the taskforce must convene the first meeting of the taskforce within 1 month after the commencement of this section.
- (5) The taskforce must establish reference groups to consider, and provide advice and recommendations to the taskforce about any of the following matters—
 - (a) the impact of this Division on specific communities,

Examples—

Aboriginal persons, the LGBTIQ+ community

(b) particular elements of the Division.

- (6) A reference group must consist of members who have expertise in, or legal knowledge of, the subject matter for which the reference group is established.

Examples of sectors, groups and organisations from which members of reference groups might be drawn—

the domestic and family violence sector, the legal profession, the Judicial Commission of NSW, Aboriginal organisations and groups, the culturally and linguistically diverse sector, LGBTIQ+ groups, the disability sector, youth and childrens groups, victims and survivors of sexual or domestic and family violence and the families of victims and survivors

- (7) In carrying out its purposes, the taskforce must consult with any reference group that is relevant to the particular purpose.
- (8) The taskforce must give the Minister a report in relation to its main purposes—
- (a) at least once in each 6 months during the period between the commencement of this provision and the commencement of the coercive control offence, and
 - (b) at least every 12 months after the commencement of the coercive control offence.
- (9) The Minister must ensure a report under subsection (8) is tabled in each House of Parliament within 21 days after receiving it.
- (10) The taskforce ceases to operate, and this section is repealed, on the day on which, under section 54J(5)(c), the report about the third review about this Division is tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

54J Review of Division

- (1) The Minister must review this Division to determine whether—
- (a) the policy objectives of the Division remain valid, and
 - (b) the terms of the Division remain appropriate for securing those objectives.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a review under this section must consider the following—
- (a) whether section 54D(1)(c) should be extended to cover recklessness,
 - (b) whether this Division should apply to relationships other than current and former intimate partner relationships,
 - (c) the impact of this Division on Aboriginal people, culturally and linguistically diverse people and LGBTIQ+ people,
 - (d) whether victims of an offence under this Division may be misidentified as perpetrators,
 - (e) whether the penalty for the offence under section 54D(1) should be extended,
 - (f) the types of behaviour in relation to which prosecutions for an offence under section 54D(1) are proceeding, including whether charges are being laid in relation to non-physical forms of abusive behaviour,
 - (g) the extent to which the offence under section 54D(1) is being charged on its own or in

- combination with other charges,
- (h) the use of the defence under section 54E, including how often and the circumstances in which the defence is being used,
 - (i) whether there are variations in the use of the offence under section 54D(1) in different police regions, commands and districts,
 - (j) the operation of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence Act 2007*, section 6A to assess whether the definition of domestic abuse in that section—
 - (i) has had an impact on the education of the community about domestic abuse, and
 - (ii) has improved police practice in responding to domestic and family abuse,
 - (k) in relation to particular areas in the State and types of courts—
 - (i) the number of cases for which proceedings for an offence under section 54D(1) have been commenced, and
 - (ii) the number of convictions for an offence under section 54D(1), and
 - (iii) the average period between service of a complaint or an indictment for an offence under section 54D(1) and a finding or verdict as to guilt, including a plea guilty.
- (3) In conducting a review under this section, the Minister must have regard to—
- (a) the transcripts of criminal trials, conducted during the period to which the review relates (the *review period*), that relate to an offence under section 54D(1), and
 - (b) the training that has occurred during the review period in relation to the offence under section 54(1), including—
 - (i) the type of training, and
 - (ii) the number and kinds of persons to whom the training has been provided, including police officers, judicial officers and legal practitioners, and
 - (iii) the effectiveness of the training.
- (4) A review under this section is to be undertaken—
- (a) for the first review—as soon as possible after the period of 2 years from the commencement of this Division, and
 - (b) for the second and third reviews—as soon as possible after the period of 2 years from the last review under this section.
- (5) A report on the outcome of a review under this section is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within—
- (a) for a report about the first review—within 3 years after the commencement of this Division, and
 - (b) for a report about the second review—within 3 years after the report about the first review was required to be tabled under paragraph (a), and

(c) for a report about the third review—within 3 years after the report about the second review was required to be tabled under paragraph (b).

Appendix 2: Reference Group member organisations

Reference Group	Members as at July 2025
DFV Service Delivery Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Independent member (Chairperson)• Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre• Full Stop Australia• Domestic Violence NSW• No to Violence• Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre• Women's Legal Service NSW• ACON
Government Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deputy Secretary, Law Reform and Legal Services, DCJ (Chairperson)• Courts, Tribunals and Service Delivery, DCJ• BOCSAR• NSW Health• NSW Police Force• Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions• Domestic Violence Unit, Legal Aid NSW• Local Court of NSW• District Court of NSW• Supreme Court of NSW• Judicial Commission of NSW• Youth Justice NSW• Corrective Services NSW• Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, DCJ
Legal Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Director, Criminal Law Division, Legal Aid NSW (Chairperson)• Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions• Law Society of NSW

Reference Group	Members as at July 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Bar Association • Senior Counsel, NSW Bar (individual capacity) • Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) • NSW Public Defenders • Women's Legal Service NSW • Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre • Immigration Advice and Rights Centre • Seniors Rights Service • Youth Law Australia • HIV/AIDS Legal Centre
Community Sector Specialists Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce Deputy Chairperson Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning DCJ (Chairperson) • Early Intervention, Disability and Inclusion, DCJ • NSW Ageing and Disability Commission • People with Disability Australia • Carers NSW • Mental Health Commission of NSW • Older Women's Network NSW • Country Women's Association of NSW • Council on the Ageing NSW • Senior Rights Service • Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People • Youth Action • Barnados Australia
First Nations Communities Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Affairs NSW (Chairperson) • Women's Legal Service NSW • Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre • Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes, DCJ • Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) • Aboriginal Women's Advisory Network • NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances • NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations • First Peoples Disability Network

Reference Group	Members as at July 2025
CALD Communities Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW (Chairperson) • Immigrant Women's SpeakOut Association of NSW • Muslim Women Australia • Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW • Settlement Services International • Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association • Mosaic Multicultural Connections • NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors