Government
of South Australia

Coercive control.

A new law to make everyone safer.

Easy Read

What is in this paper

About this paper 3

If you feel upset or worried 5

What is coercive control? 7

Coercive control can get worse 9

How does coercive control make you feel? 10

Who is hurt by coercive control? 11

The plan for change 12

How we will make the new law 13

How you can help us 14

How to tell us what you think 15

What happens next? 16

Contact us 17

Word List 18

About this paper

Government of South Australia

The Government of South Australia wrote this paper.

When we say ‘we’, we mean the Government.

We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

Not bold

We have written hard words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these words mean.

You can find out what they mean in the Word List.

The Word List is on page 18.

This paper is a **summary** of another paper.

That means it only has the most important ideas.

You can find the other paper on the YourSAy website at

www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/coercive-control

You can ask for help to read this paper.

A friend, family member or support person

may be able to help you.

If you feel upset or worried

In this paper we talk about some things that might

- upset you,
- make you feel worried.

You can talk to someone about how you feel.

You can talk to someone you trust,

like a friend, family member or support person.

You can call a **counsellor**.

A counsellor's job is to listen to you

and help you talk about your feelings.

A counsellor will not tell anyone what you say.

They will keep it private.

Counsellors you can call

You can call these counsellors for free.

- 1800 RESPECT.

  Call 1800 737 732.

- Men's referral service (No To Violence).

  Call 1300 766 491.

- KWY Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

  Family Services.

  Call 8377 7822.

If you are in danger

If you are danger right now call the Police on 000.

If someone is hurting you

If someone is hurting you, call 1800 RESPECT.

Call 1800 737 732.

What is coercive control?

This paper is about **coercive control**.

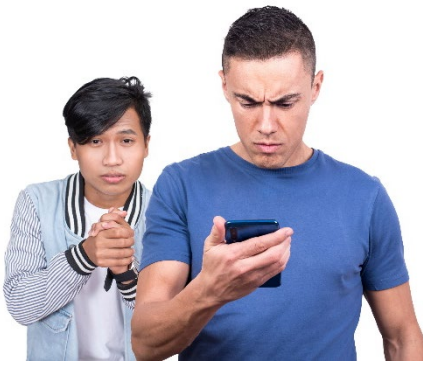
Coercive control is a type of family abuse.

It means someone close to you is hurting you.

They are doing unfair things that take away your freedom.

This person could be

- Your partner,
- Your ex partner,
- A member of your family,
- Someone who takes care of you,
- Someone you live with.



They are doing things to control you such as

- Deciding who you can talk to,
- Deciding where you can go and what you can do,
- Controlling your medicine,
- Controlling your phone,
- Controlling your money.

The person is saying mean things to you.

They are saying that you are

- Stupid,
- Crazy,
- Unlovable,
- Useless.

Coercive control means that someone is hurting you over a long time.

Coercive control can get worse

Coercive control can get worse the longer you are with the person.

The person can start to be violent.

Coercive control is very dangerous.

How does coercive control make you feel?

Coercive control can make you feel

- Trapped,
- Scared,
- Unsafe,
- Alone,
- Guilty and blaming yourself,
- Helpless.

Who is hurt by coercive control?

Coercive control can happen to anyone.

It is mostly women who are hurt by coercive control.

But it can also be men.

People who are LGBTIQ+ can be hurt

by coercive control.

People with disability can be hurt

by coercive control.

Young people and children can be hurt

by coercive control.

The plan for change

We want to stop coercive control.

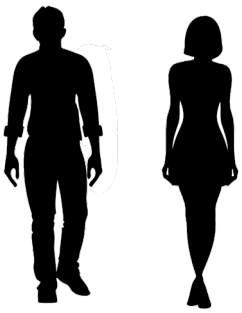
We will use a **law** to do this.

A law is a rule that everyone must follow.

The new law will stop someone close to you from hurting you.

This person could be

- Your partner,



- Your ex partner.

How we will make the new law

We wrote down some ideas about how to stop coercive control.

Lots of people and organisations told us their ideas too.

We put the ideas in a paper called an **Amendment Bill**.

An Amendment Bill is a list of changes we want to make to a law.

The Amendment Bill is called

'The Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2023'.

How you can help us

We want to know what you think about the Amendment Bill.

We want to know

- Is the Amendment Bill clear and easy to understand?

- Will the new rules keep people safer?

- Did we write down all the ways coercive control hurts people?

You can tell us what you think.

How to tell us what you think

You can go to the YourSAy website

to fill in a **survey** about the Amendment Bill.

A survey is a group of questions.

Your answers help us to understand

your ideas and experiences.

To fill in the survey, go to

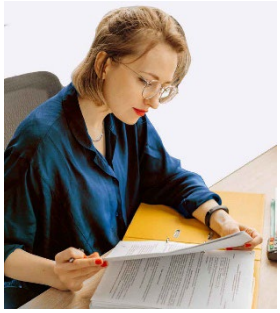
www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/coercive-control

You can also send us an email.

LLPSubmissions@sa.gov.au

Please tell us before 10 October 2023.

What happens next?



We will read what you told us.

We will use what you told us to make the Amendment Bill better.

When it is finished, the Amendment Bill will go to Parliament.

Members of Parliament will talk about the Amendment Bill.

They will decide if the Amendment Bill will become a law about coercive control.

The new law will make everyone safer.

Contact us

You can find out more about this paper.

You can call us on 8303 0961.

You can send us an email.

LLPSubmissions@sa.gov.au

You can visit the YourSAy website.

www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/coercive-control

Word List

Amendment Bill

An Amendment Bill is a list of changes we want to make to a law.

Coercive control

Coercive control is when someone close to you makes you do what they want. They stop you from seeing friends or getting things that you need. It is abuse.

Counsellor

A counsellor's job is to listen to you and help you talk about your feelings.

Law

A law is a rule that everyone must follow.

Summary

A summary tells you the most important ideas.

Survey

A survey is a group of questions. Your answers help someone else understand your ideas and experiences.

This document was made by the Government of South Australia
using Photosymbols, stock photography and custom images.
You cannot use any of the images without permission.
We can supply this document in other formats and other languages.
Phone 8207 0127.

Version: August 2023