

Coercive control reform tracker: Australia 2026

Orange shading indicates coercive control consideration and reform since February 2020

The purpose of this table is to capture and track coercive control reforms for intimate partner and family relationships across Australia, emphasising those reforms since the murder of Hannah Clarke and her children in February 2020. In some jurisdictions there are additional laws not included in the table below which may provide protection (for example, Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982 (Qld)) but the purpose of this table is to capture the more specific domestic and family violence laws.

Jurisdiction	Consultation, Recommended Reforms and Guidance Materials	Criminalisation	Civil Protection Regime
National	10 February 2026, the Department of Social Services launched Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices; National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026-2036, which sets out a plan to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from all types of family and domestic violence, including coercive control. 31 July 2025, National Legal Aid announced funding by Commonwealth to help lawyers respond to coercive control (see media statement). 5 March 2024, the Attorney-General's Department published a suite of Coercive Control fact sheets to provide further information about coercive control and its impacts. 11 September 2024, the Understanding Coercive Control fact sheet was updated and two new fact sheets were released regarding Young People and Relationships (see here and here). 22 September 2023, the Standing Council of Attorneys-General released the finalised National Principles to Address Coercive Control in Family.	National Principle 7 leaves it to each jurisdiction to decide whether coercive control should be a specific criminal offence.	National Principle 7 leaves it to each jurisdiction to decide whether to amend existing civil laws that aim to protect victim-survivors from further violence, intimidation or harassment (i.e., protection orders).



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	and Domestic Violence, which aim to create a shared understanding of coercive control and its impacts, and to guide considerations to inform effective responses. • 29 March 2023, a Consultation Summary was published highlighting key themes and demographics of respondents to the survey. • 16 September – 11 November 2022, the consultation process for the Draft National Principles was open and included an online survey and a series of targeted roundtable consultations. • 14 September 2022, the Australian Government and state and territory Attorney- Generals released a Consultation Draft of the National Principles to Address Coercive Control (Draft National Principles).		



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New South Wales	- The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research publishes quarterly Coercive control monitoring reports (see latest report, June 2025). - The Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce has released several statutory reports in relation to its main purposes as required under s54I of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> (NSW) (see latest report, July 2025). The next report is to be published in July 2026. - April 2025, the NSW Government published a tip sheet for frontline Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence practitioners to support victim-survivors of coercive control. - As part of the 2023-24 Budget, \$5.6 million in initial funding was invested into coercive control training for police (see media release). 17 December 2021, the NSW Government responded to the Committee's report and either Supported, Supported in principle, Supported with further consideration or Noted the 23 recommendations. 30 June 2021, the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control released its Report on Coercive Control in Domestic Relationships with 23 recommendations. 21 October 2020, the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control was established to inquire into and report on coercive control in domestic relationships. - October 2020, the Coercive Control Discussion Paper was released by the	Coercive Control Monitoring Report December 2025 for the most current data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research on the coercive control criminal offence. - The NSW Government has indicated it plans to review the coercive control standalone offence in 2026 to consider whether it should be expanded to other types of relationships. 1 July 2024, new s54D of the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) commenced which criminalises coercive control between current or former intimate partners only. - The offence carries a maximum penalty of 7 years. Section 54D was one of the amendments proposed by the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 (NSW). 1 February 2024, most provisions of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 (NSW) commenced (not including s54D). - December 2022, Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce was established pursuant to amendments due to the implementation of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 (NSW). The primary role of this Taskforce is to oversee the implementation of the new coercive control offence.	- Apprehended domestic violence orders are made for people in 'domestic relationships' under the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 (NSW). - Domestic relationships include, among other things, current or former de facto relationships, current or former intimate personal relationships (whether or not the relationship is/was of a sexual nature), current or former relatives, and where a person is living or has lived in the same household as the other person (s5). 1 February 2024, following commencement of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 (NSW), the definition of 'domestic abuse' in the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 (NSW) was amended to include behaviour by one person that coerces or controls a second person in the context of domestic relationships (s6A) (see also factsheets published by the NSW Government on the new legal definition of 'domestic abuse').



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	NSW Department of Communities and Justice, highlighting key questions for any potential reform with respect to coercive control.		



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Queensland	- July 2024, the Queensland Government released Domestic and family violence and coercive control training modules in preparation for the commencement of the coercive control offence in 2025. 6 March 2024, the Queensland Government released its Coercive Control Communications Framework to guide best practice communications about coercive control, its nature and impacts, and upcoming changes to the laws in Queensland. - January 2024, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee delivered its report on the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Qld). Public hearings were held on 6 November 2023 and 8 November 2023. The reporting date for the Inquiry was 19 January 2024. 11 October 2023, the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 was introduced. The Bill proposed to introduce the criminal offence of coercive control. 4 August 2023, the Queensland Government released its first Women's Safety and Justice Reform Annual Report. 21 November 2022, the Queensland Government appoints the Office of the Independent Implementation Supervisor (OIIS) to track, among other things, the progress and adequacy of implementation of the Government's response to the Hear her voice Report 1.	26 May 2025, coercive control is a criminal offence under new s334C of the Criminal Code 1899 (Qld) pursuant to the commencement of the final tranche of amendments in the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 (Qld). - The new standalone offence of coercive control carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and criminalises conduct of an adult where: - the person is in a domestic relationship with another person (see definition below); - the person engages in a course of conduct against the other person that consists of domestic violence occurring on more than one occasion; - the person intends the course of conduct to coerce or control the other person; and - the course of conduct would, in all circumstances, be reasonably likely to cause the other person harm. (Domestic relationship is defined as a 'relevant relationship' under s13 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 (Qld) which include intimate personal relationships, family relationships and informal care relationships.)	28 August 2025, the Queensland Government passed the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Qld). The bill amends the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2021</i> (Qld) by introducing a new framework for police to issue police protection directions (PPDs). The goal of this reform is to improve efficiencies for police responding to domestic family violence by removing the interaction with the judicial system. PPDs will have a duration of twelve months and can contain the same conditions as a full domestic violence order. The provisions relating to PPDs will come into force on 1 January 2026 (see proclamation). - Protection orders are made for people in 'relevant relationships' under the Domestic and Family Protection Act 2012 (Qld). Relevant relationships include intimate personal relationships, family relationships and informal care relationships (s13). 1 August 2023, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (Qld) amended the Domestic and Family Protection Act 2012 (Qld), introducing 'a pattern of behaviour' into the meaning of domestic violence. Behaviours listed include keeping a person in a dependent relationship, and isolating a person from family, friends and other sources of support (s8). The amendments also introduced a requirement for the court to decide the party most in need of protection where there are cross applications with both parties to a relationship alleging violence (s41G). 22 February 2023, the Queensland Parliament passed the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Qld).



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	10 May 2022, the Queensland Government responded to the Taskforce accepting the 89 recommendations including criminalisation of coercive control. 2 December 2021, the Taskforce released Hear her voice Report 1 addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland with 89 recommendations for reform. 27 May 2021, Queensland's Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce commenced community consultation on how best to legislate against coercive control (Discussion Paper 1).	8 August 2024, proclamation was issued for commencement of the provisions of the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 (Qld) (see here for provision commencement details). 11 October 2023, the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Qld) was introduced. The Bill proposed to introduce the criminal offence of coercive control. The Bill was passed with amendment on 6 March 2024 (see Act as passed). 1 August 2023, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (Qld) renamed the offence of unlawful stalking to 'unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse' in the Criminal Code 1899 (Qld) (Ch33A). 22 February 2023, the first stage of legislation against coercive control passed Parliament and laid the foundation to create a standalone offence of coercive control.	



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South Australia	- The Government of SA Office for Women released various discussion and summary papers proposing legislation to criminalise coercive control in South Australia. Each paper targets a different community of people who are impacted by coercive control. The page was last updated on 15 September 2025. 29 August 2023, the SA Government opened public consultation on its draft Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2023 (SA). As part of the consultation, the Government released the Coercive Control Community Guide. The consultation closed on 10 October 2023, and the SA Government has considered the results of the consultation. 12 April 2023, the SA Government launched its public awareness campaign across social media platforms Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube and Snapchat and on bus shelters around the metropolitan area targeting young people to 'see the signs' of coercive control. 28 September 2022, the SA Government confirmed that consultation with a wide range of groups and other jurisdictions had started. - May 2022, the SA Government published its Overview of Submissions from the 22 submissions received for the consultation. 2 February 2022, the SA Government sought submissions following its release of Discussion Paper.	4 September 2025, the SA Government passed the Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2025 (SA). The Bill became legislation on 11 September 2025 (see Act as enacted). The date of commencement is to be fixed by proclamation. - The Act will, amongst other things, amend the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 (SA) and insert a standalone criminal offence of coercive control. - The proposed new offence will criminalise coercive control within a current or former (intimate) relationship. - For the purpose of the Act, a relationship means two people who are / were: - married; or - engaged to be married (including a betrothal under cultural or religious tradition); or - domestic partners; or - in some form of intimate personal relationship in which their lives are interrelated and the actions of one affects the other. - The Act contains a review provision which allows the parliament to revisit the operation of the offence within 3 years. - The term "intimate personal relationship" is not defined in the Act or any South Australian statute. However, it is used similarly in the Principal Act (see ss5AA(4a)(c) and	- The Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Act 2024 (SA) (passed on 4 September 2025) introduces a new s8(8)(ab) to the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009 (SA) to include the following for 'domestic abuse': (ab) they are engaged to be married to each other, including a betrothal under cultural or religious tradition. The Act will commence on a date yet to be fixed by proclamation.



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	Implementation considerations should coercive control be criminalised in South Australia. September and October 2021, a consultation on a proposed South Australian offence of coercive control was conducted. There were 173 respondents to the public survey and 31 detailed submissions received to this consultation.	20A(3)(c)). - The offence will hold a maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment. 29 August 2024, the Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill (SA) was introduced to the SA Parliament.	



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Western Australia	5 May 2025, the WA government released a media statement about its commitment to spreading two state-wide education campaigns to raise awareness about coercive control, in conjunction with a coercive control online hub (which launched late 2024). The online hub includes resources in 36 languages, as well as for people with low literacy. 28 November 2023, the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime released its report on legislative responses to coercive control following extensive community consultation. The report establishes 24 recommendations for future reform, including the consideration of a new criminal offence addressing coercive control. The report acknowledges coercive control within a range of different relationships including older people and children in their own right. 19 September 2023, a special taskforce formed to help guide the next phase of WA's commitment to address family and domestic violence. A key function of the taskforce is to start the consultation with people with lived experience. 11 December 2022, the WA Government released a media statement sharing a consultation snapshot and noting that more than 300 submissions had been received. - March 2022, the WA Government community consultation on coercive control commenced to consider whether the Government needs to change laws	28 November 2023, following the Commissioner for Victims of Crime's report, the WA Government released a media statement indicating there would be a phased approach to the criminalisation of coercive control, commencing with systematic reform and education and training prior to a standalone criminal offence of coercive control. - The March 2022 community consultation paper considered criminalisation of coercive control.	- Restraining orders are made to protect family members against family violence under the Restraining Orders Act 1997 (WA). Family members include, among other things, a relationship between two persons who are, or were, married to each other, in a de facto relationship, related to each other and one of whom is, or was, a child whom the other person is a guardian (s4(1)). 14 November 2024, the Family Violence Legislation Reform Act 2024 (WA) amended the definition of family violence in the Restraining Orders Act 1997 (WA) to incorporate behaviour or a pattern of behaviour that: - occurs over a period of time; - may be more than one act, or a series of acts, that when considered cumulatively coerces or controls the family member or causes the family member to be fearful; and - is to be considered in the context of the relationship between the person and the family member as a whole. 19 June 2024, the WA Government introduced the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2024 (WA). 28 November 2023, following the Commissioner for Victims of Crime's report, the WA Government released a media statement indicating there would be reforms to the Restraining Orders Act 1997 (WA) to better reflect the patterned nature of coercive control behaviours, and their cumulative effect. 2020, the Family Violence Legislation Reform Act 2020 (WA) expanded the definition of family violence in the Restraining Orders Act 1997 (WA) to include coercing in connection with demanding or receiving dowry, before or after a marriage.



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	to better protect victim-survivors of coercive control.		



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Northern Territory	1 June 2023, the Northern Territory Government released an exposure draft of the Justice Legislation Amendment (Domestic and Family Violence) Bill 2023 (NT) which proposed amendments to the civil protection regime under the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007 (NT). Amendments have since come into effect. - August 2022, the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice released the Summary Review of Legislation and the Justice Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Northern Territory – Proposals for Consultation for consultation. 12 May 2021, at the 11th meeting of the Territory's Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Cross Agency Working Group, the Group agreed that there was 'a need to consider changes to the law and policy to effectively address coercive control as an integral part of DFV'. - The NT Government has released two action plans, a mapping report and a monitoring, evaluation and accountability plan to support its Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018 to 2028 (see website here). https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1012022/may-2021-cawg-communiqué-11v2.pdf	- Despite criminalisation being put forward as an option for consideration in the August 2022 consultation, NT has not, to date, introduced a standalone criminal offence for coercive control. 25 March 2024, the Justice Legislation Amendment (Domestic and Family Violence) Act 2023 (NT) commenced which, among other things, made amendments to the Criminal Code 1983 (NT) and the Sentencing Act 1995 (NT). - These changes are made to reflect the amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007 (NT), ensuring consistency among legislation. - The Act did not enact a standalone criminal offence for coercive control. 1 June 2023, exposure draft Justice Legislation Amendment (Domestic and Family Violence) Bill 2023 (NT) did not propose a standalone criminal offence for coercive control.	- Domestic Violence Orders are made to protect persons in a domestic relationship against violence under the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007 (NT). - A person is in a 'domestic relationship' with another person if the person is, among other things: - a spouse or de facto partner of the other person; - is otherwise a relative of the other person; - has or had the custody or guardianship of the other person; - is or has been in an intimate personal relationship with the other person; or - ordinarily or regularly lives with the other person (ss9 and 10). 25 March 2024, the Justice Legislation Amendment (Domestic and Family Violence) Act 2023 (NT) commenced. This Act made key changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Act 2007 (NT). These changes include, but are not limited to: - expanding the definition of 'domestic violence' to include coercive control, emotional or psychological abuse and the use of technology to facilitate abuse where two persons are in a domestic relationship, or where a non-consensual sexual act occurred between them (s7); - expanding the definition of 'domestic relationship' to include, among other things, ex-partners of current partners (and vice versa) and family members of current partners (and vice versa) (s9); and - redefining 'intimate personal relationship' to include two persons who have engaged in a sexual act or sexual contact (s11).



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Tasmania	- November 2022, the Tasmanian Government released Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027: Survivors at the Centre, which represents the Government's long-term commitment with respect to family and sexual violence. It notes: \$1.4 million has been provided to develop an initiative to build children and young people's understanding of consent, coercive control and grooming; - a dedicated position in the Department for Education, Children and Young people will be established to embed respectful relationship education (including on coercive control) that is aligned to the Australian curriculum.	- Economic abuse and emotional abuse or intimidation are offences under the Family Violence Act 2004 (TAS) and encompass coercive and controlling behaviours. These offences are punishable by fine not exceeding 40 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years (ss 8 and 9). A complaint for an offence against ss8 or 9 must be made within 12 months from the day on which the action or last action occurred (s9A). - The offences are limited to relationships of spouse or partner.	- Family violence orders can be made under the Family Violence Act 2004 (TAS) to prevent the commission of family violence against an affected person or to protect any other person named in the order (s4, s15, s16). - The offence of family violence includes coercion and intimidation against a person's spouse or partner only (s7).



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Australian Capital Territory	- May 2025, the ACT Government launched a public awareness campaign to help community members recognise the signs of coercive control as a form of family and domestic violence. As at 25 September 2025, the campaign reached over 2.1 million impressions and lifted awareness of coercive control among ACT adults from 57% to 67%. 14 May 2024, the Legislative Assembly published a Notice Paper where the Assembly noted the need for the criminalisation of coercive control in the ACT and called on the ACT government to implement an education campaign on coercive control and commit additional funding and resources in the 2024-25 budget to frontline domestic and family violence services. - January 2022, the Domestic Violence Prevention Council Advisory Board published its Joint Discussion Paper on Criminalising Coercive Control with a recommendation for community-led consultation with marginalised communities¹ before legislative reform is considered. - The Paper also recommends the ACT Government observe implementation of legislation to criminalise coercive control in other Australian jurisdictions to inform possible approaches in the ACT.	25 September 2025, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence announced that the ACT Government will introduce legislation to criminalise coercive control as a standalone offence by mid-2026. 25 June 2024, the Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2024 (ACT) was presented to the Legislative Assembly, which aimed to criminalise coercive control in intimate partner and other family relationships. The Bill was negated on 27 August 2024 as there was a formal suspension of the Assembly's sittings, which occurred in late 2024 leading to the cessation of Bills that were under consideration at that time. As a result, the Bill lapsed and did not become law. - June 2022, in its 2022 Annual Safer Families Statement the ACT Government confirmed that it accepted the Advisory Board's advice of further consultation, research and observation of other jurisdictions prior to considering criminalisation.	- Protection orders are made for a 'family member' under the Family Violence Act 2016 (ACT). A family member includes current or former domestic partners, current or former intimate partners, relatives, a child of a current or former domestic partner, and a parent of a child (s9). - The Act includes in the definition of family violence coercion or any other behaviour that (A) controls or dominates the family member; and (B) causes the family member to feel fear for the safety or wellbeing of the family member or another person (s8). This definition was included in the Act when it was first published in 2016 and has remained unchanged. - Despite the inclusion of 'coercion' in the definition of family violence, the Act provides no explicit definition for what may be considered as coercive behaviour. The 2022 Joint Discussion Paper on Criminalising Coercive Control states that the coercive control provision is rarely used and recommends further exploration as to why a public education drive and increased funding may be beneficial.

¹ Including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, CALD communities, LGBTIQ+ and disability communities.



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Victoria	28 January 2023, the Victorian Government announced the implementation of the final recommendations of the Royal Commission, implementing all 227 recommendations. - March 2022, the Victorian Parliament released a research paper, 'Intersectional complexities of coercive control' which considers barriers to seeking support and the gaps in current research. - March 2022, the Victorian Parliament released a research paper, 'What is Coercive Control?' which considers criminalisation and notes some stakeholder opposition to criminalisation. November 2021, Members of the Victorian Legislative Council agreed to a motion that recognised the 'prevalence of coercive control in family violence offending' and called on the Government to look into ways to 'enhance the understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour in our community and the justice system'. - May 2021, DV Vic and DVRCV release their report 'Responding to Coercive Control in Victoria - Broadening the conversation beyond criminalisation'. The report discusses the current law addressing the criminalisation of coercive control. It lists five potential unintended consequences of criminalising coercive control. 2015, the Royal Commission into Family Violence began in Victoria. Its	10 September 2026, the Justice Legislation Amendment (Family Violence, Coercive Control, Good Character, Risk Assessment and Other Matters) Bill 2026 was passed with amendment. The Bill will introduce the standalone offence for coercive control in intimate partner relationships into the <i>Crimes Act 1958</i> (Vic). 11 August 2026, the Victorian government introduced the Justice Legislation Amendment (Family Violence, Coercive Control, Good Character, Risk Assessment and Other Matters) Bill 2026. The Bill seeks to insert a standalone offence for coercive control in intimate partner relationships into the <i>Crimes Act 1958</i> (Vic). The new offence would have a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment. 2 December 2025, the Crimes Amendment (Coercive Control) Bill 2025 (Vic) was introduced into the Victorian Parliament. The Bill seeks to amend the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) to provide for a standalone offence for coercive control for intimate partner relationships. This new offence would include a maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment. The Bill has been at the second reading stage since 3 December 2025.	- Family violence intervention orders are made for a family member under the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic). A 'Family member' includes a current or former domestic partner or spouse, a current or former intimate personal relationship, a current or former relative, a child who regularly resides with a relevant person (or has so previously), and a child of a current or former intimate personal relationship (s8). - The Act includes in the definition of 'family violence' behaviour that is coercive or in any other way controls or dominates the family member and causes that family member to fear for the safety or wellbeing of that family member or another person (s5(1)(a)). This definition was included when the Act was first introduced in 2008 and has remained unchanged. 13 November 2025, the Justice Legislation Amendment (Family Violence, Stalking and Other Matters) Bill 2025 (Vic) was introduced into the Victorian Parliament. The Bill has passed and was given royal assent on 10 February 2026. The Justice Legislation Amendment (Family Violence, Stalking and Other Matters) Act 2026 expands the definition of 'family violence' under s5 of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic) to include the following coercive behaviours: - using or misusing, or attempting or threatening to use or misuse, systems, processes and providers of services (s5(2)(da)); - influencing or attempting to influence the actions or decisions of providers of family, health, and other services (s5(2)(db)); - the mistreatment of an animal (s5(2)(e)); and - causing or threatening to cause the sale,



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	report and 227 recommendations were handed down in 2016.		removal, abandonment, rehoming or surrendering of an animal (s5(2)(f)).



Sensitive

