



Government of
South Australia



human
services

Coercive control.

What it means for women with disability.

Easy Read



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About this guide



The Office for Women wrote this guide.

The Office for Women is part of the
Department of Human Services.



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 11.



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.

If you feel upset or worried



In this guide we talk about some things that might

- upset you,
- make you feel worried.

You can talk to someone about how you feel.

People you can call



- Lifeline. Call 13 11 14.
- Beyond Blue. Call 1300 224 636.
- 1800 RESPECT. Call 1800 737 732.



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 on 1800 737 732.



What is coercive control?



Coercive control is a type of family violence.

It means someone close to you is hurting you.

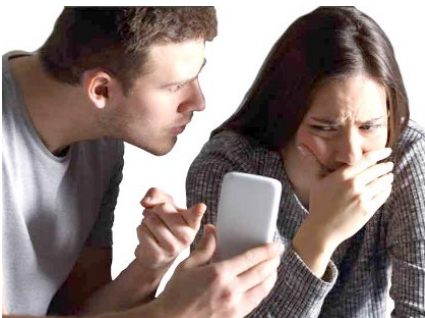
This person could be

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

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

They are doing things like controlling

- Who you talk to and where you go,
- What you do,
- Your medicine,
- Your phone,
- Your money.





Coercive control can make you feel

- Trapped,
- Scared,
- Unsafe,
- Like you don't know how to take care of yourself.

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.



Some people find it harder to get help and support if they are hurt.

People with disability can find it harder to get help.

Why things need to change



Coercive control is a very dangerous kind of family violence.

Coercive control can get worse:

- The longer you know the person
- When you try to leave the person who is hurting you
- After you leave the person who is hurting you.

The plan for change



The South Australian Government wants to stop coercive control.

The Government is going to make coercive control **illegal**.

This means if someone uses coercive control you can

- Call the police,
- Tell somebody you trust,
- Ask someone to help you to report it.



What happens next



The Government wants to make coercive control **illegal**.



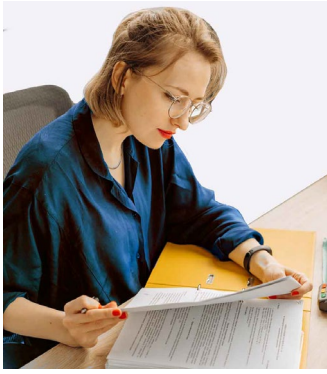
The Government will write down some ideas about how to do that.

They will ask South Australians for their ideas too.

This is called a **consultation**.



The consultation will happen in May and June this year.

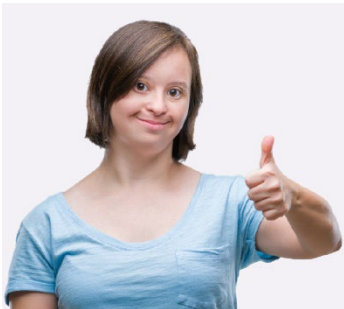


After the consultation, the Government will think about everyone's ideas.



The Government will write a new **law** about coercive control.

A law is a rule that everyone must follow.



The new law will make everyone safer.

Contact us

You can find out more about this guide.



You can send us an email.

OFWInformation@sa.gov.au



You can visit our website.

www.officeforwomen.sa.gov.au

Word List

Coercive control



When someone close to you makes you do what they want. They are hurting you. They stop you from seeing friends or getting things that you need.



Consultation

When the Government asks people for their ideas.



Illegal

When the law says something is not allowed.



Law

A law is a rule that everyone must follow.

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