

Criminalising Coercive Control: An Australian Survey Data Snapshot



Domestic and family violence is a national problem. Currently policy makers, researchers, practitioners and victim-survivors are immersed in conversations about the potential risks and benefits of criminalising coercive control – an initiative already implemented in some international jurisdictions and Tasmania. This project presents the first in-depth study into Australian victim-survivors' experiences of coercive control and views on criminalisation.

This snapshot presents data gathered over a six-week period in early 2021 from an online survey aimed at adult Australians who have experienced coercive control in a domestic and family violence context. The survey garnered 1261 responses and this snapshot presents the key demographical characteristics of the respondents and their experiences of coercive control.¹

¹A number of the survey questions allowed for multiple choices to be selected. Percentages were determined based on the response count, rather than the choice count. Whilst the survey garnered 1261 responses, some respondents did not complete all questions, which is reflected in the data presented here. For the purpose of this snapshot, data was excluded where participants selected 'prefer not to say'.

Recommended citation: Reeves, E., Fitz-Gibbon, K., Walklate, S. and Meyer, S. (2021) Criminalising Coercive Control: An Australian survey - Data snapshot. Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre, Melbourne, Australia.

Demographics Of Survey Respondents

Age

Under 30: 8%
31-60: 83%
61 years or older: 9%

Gender Identity

Male: 16%
Female: 82%
Other: 2%

21% of respondents identified as LGBTQIA+



Type Of Area Lived In

Metropolitan: 63%
Regional: 25%
Rural: 11%
Remote: < 1%

3.5% of respondents identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

83% of respondents were born in Australia

Education (Highest Degree / Level Of Education)

Year 12 equivalent & less: 19%
Tafe degree or undergraduate degree: 46%
Postgraduate degree: 33%

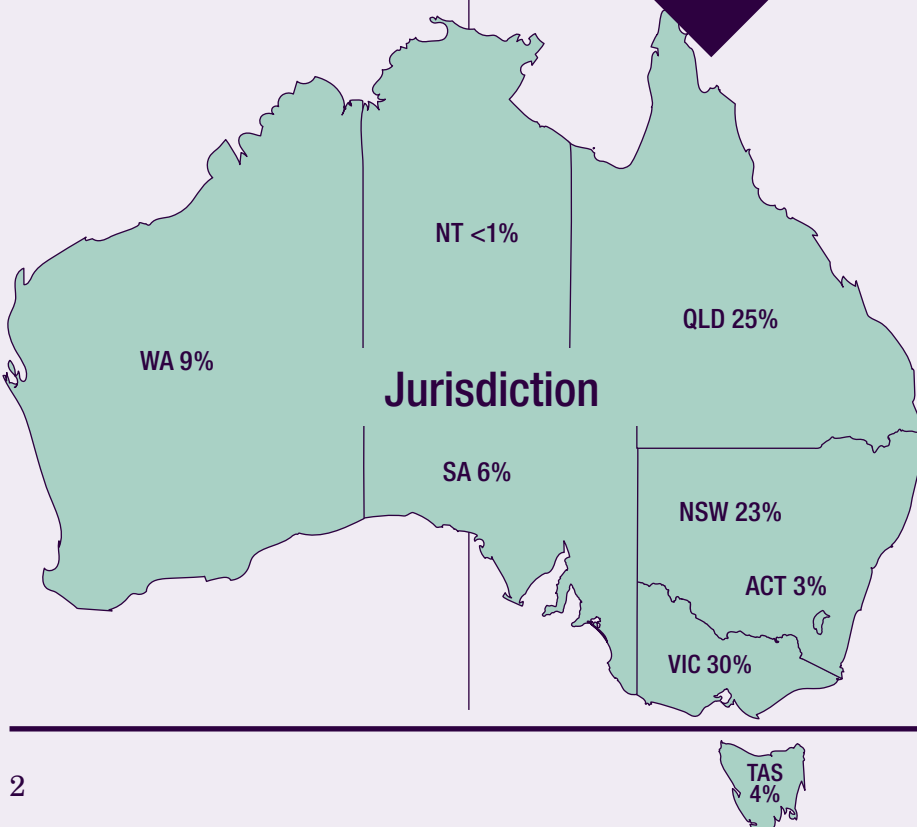
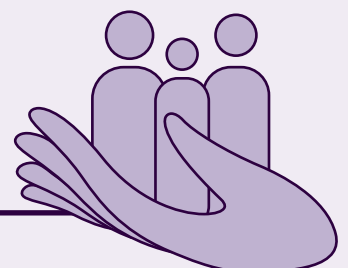


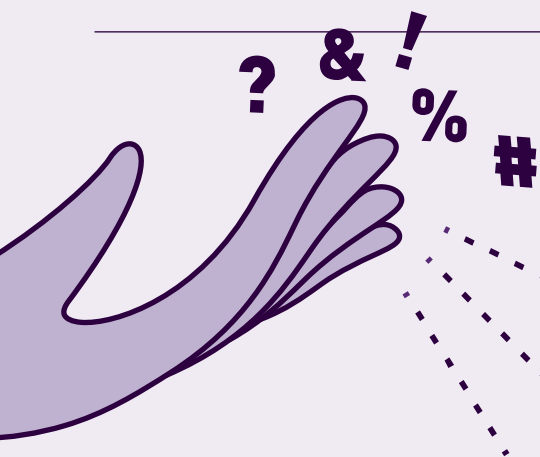
Employment Status

Employed full-time, part-time or casual: 65%
Unemployed: 10%
Retired: 6%
Student or other (e.g., self-employed): 18%

19% of respondents reported living with a disability

80% of respondents had children

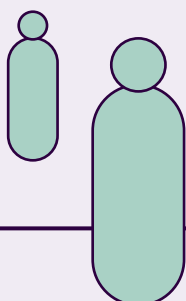




Experiences Of Coercive Control

Who From?

Former partner: 87%
Current partner: 10%
A parent: 24%
A sibling: 8%
A son: 3%
A daughter: 3%



Just 38%
of respondents viewed the abuse as domestic and family violence at the time that they were experiencing it

97% Emotional / psychological abuse

Verbal abuse 86%

80% Intimidation

Humiliation & degradation 79%

79% Isolation from family and friends

Types Of Abuse Experienced

10 Most Prevalent Forms

Limited access to money and finances, and other forms of economic abuse 64%

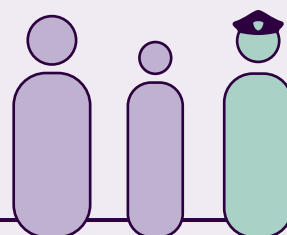
64% Infliction of rules on day to day living

Sexual abuse 54%

53% Physical abuse

Threats to harm if not complying with abuser's rules 52%

71% of respondents told somebody about their experiences of coercive control



Of those respondents who told someone about the abuse:

Reported to the police: 47%
Obtained an intervention order: 30%
Accessed supports or services beyond the police: 51%

91% told
a family member, friend or co-worker about their experience of coercive control.

