

EXPERT ALERT - 31 August 2022

CEO No to Violence Jacqui Watt available for comment

Re: Submissions to the draft Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Bill 2022 now closed (5pm 31 August 2022)

Jacqui Watt, Chief Executive of No to Violence says criminalising coercive control is an important step in recognising the full experience of intimate partner violence, that if implemented well, should uphold the safety of women and children, and hold perpetrators accountable for their use of violence.

“As the peak body working with men to end family violence, we welcome the opportunity to improve the draft bill, strengthen its implementation and ensure it is accessible and workable once in operation,” said Watt.

No to Violence recommendations include:

Legislative

- Ensuring the offences is not limited to intimate partners, but includes other family members, especially children.

Implementation

- An implementation taskforce should be established to ensure that first responders, the criminal justice system, specialist domestic and family violence services, are prepared.

Policy

- Coercive control legislation should be subject to ongoing and regular monitoring, and independent evaluation.

If you or someone close to you is in immediate danger, dial 000.

For advice and counselling for men concerned about their use of family violence call Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491

About Jacqui Watt

Since 2015 Jacqui has led No to Violence (NTV) through transformational change, growing and further building NTV's credibility as Australia's leading best practice organisation in men's family violence interventions.

NTV has established benchmark standards and training for individuals and organisations working to end men's use of family violence. It is over 25 years since NTV first opened its telephone call service and since then, telephone workers have held 200,000 conversations. In addition, NTV members provide men's behaviour change program places every week in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

This is Jacqui's third CEO role; she has worked in previous peak roles advocating for community housing. She has also worked at senior levels in the fields of alcohol and other drugs, mental health, disability, social housing and social enterprise, always with a view to asking "how do we improve services for clients?"

Jacqui holds an honours degree in Social Policy from the University of Edinburgh and a Masters in Management and Social Responsibility from Bristol University.

About No to Violence

No to Violence is Australia's largest peak body for organisations that work with men that use violence providing training, sector development and advocacy across the sector that works with men who use violence. We also operate the Men's Referral Service, providing a counselling service and referral pathways directly to men who use violence. As a pro-feminist organisation, women and children are at the centre of what we do - by ending men's use of family violence, families, individuals and communities are safer.

Media Contact

Meagan Patroni

Head of Communications

M: 0428 085 943

meaganp@ntv.org.au