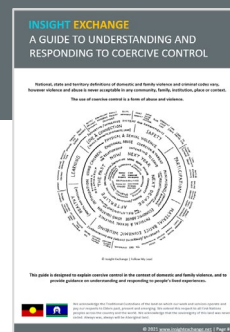


# RATIONALE FOR GUIDE



This page outlines the rationale for developing and sharing the Guide to understanding and responding to coercive control, abuse and violence.

State and Territory definitions of and responses to domestic and family violence vary, and perpetrators of violence continue to use coercive control, abuse and violence against victims. Understanding coercive control is important for community and for responders across all parts of the ecosystem across Australia.

This guide serves to reveal perpetrator responsibilities for the use of coercive control, abuse and violence, and to provide guidance in understanding and responding to people's lived experiences.

**Download | [Guide to understanding and responding to coercive control, abuse and violence](#)**

## CONTEXT

This first edition of the guide has been developed at a time when:

**1. [Insight Exchange](#) ideas and lived experience insights consistently feature coercive control as a key form of domestic and family violence**

**2. Insight Exchange has developed and published collaborative [key resources](#) focused on understanding and building on safety for people experiencing domestic and family violence.**

**3. NSW Government is exploring [state responses to coercive control](#).** A joint select committee was established on 21 October 2020 to inquire into and report on coercive control in domestic relationships.

**4. NSW Coroners Court [Domestic Violence Death Review 2017-2019 Report](#) has recommended increased guidance and resources to support safety planning. (see below\*)**

These elements of our work (items 1 & 2 above) have enabled us to collate this guide from pre-existing resources and published insights that are well established. We see the community conversations about coercive control (item 3 above) as a critical time to also be talking about, and supporting, improved responses to people experiencing domestic and family violence (item 4 above). This Guide is designed to contribute to supportive and informative conversations about coercive control.

Whilst the guide is timed to support active work and discussion taking place in NSW, the content is designed for national engagement and the utility of the guide is not determined by or limited to NSW.

**We invite you to read and take forward this work, and to evolve it into your community and context so that together we can make meaningful progress in understanding and responding to domestic and family violence.**

\*Recommendation 8 of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review 2017-2019 Report draws attention to our work in this way: *“That the NSW Government develop increased guidance and resources to support safety planning, which may include consideration of standard resources or tools for use by responders and practitioners who work with victims of domestic and family violence. In developing standard resources or tools the NSW Government may consider the work of DVSM Sightlines (now Insight Exchange) and literature around safety planning and responding to risk. Roll out of standard resources or tools should be accompanied by comprehensive training and education.”*

Insight Exchange supports this recommendation. To play our part, Insight Exchange resources are made available at no cost through the Insight Exchange website [www.insightexchange.net](http://www.insightexchange.net) and we continue to evolve this body of work with and for the benefit of many.



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our work and services operate and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We extend this respect to all First Nations peoples across the country and the world. We acknowledge that the sovereignty of this land was never ceded. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.