Media release

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For immediate distribution

1,000 community workers across NSW to receive free professional 'Coercive Control' training

The Centre of Community Welfare Training (CCWT) have been successful in winning the tender to rollout Coercive Control training, funded by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), to help address the concerning number of women experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships.

The free training program has been designed to upskill the state's 1,000+ specialised domestic and family violence (DFV) workers, after NSW became the first state to introduce the landmark *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022*. From July 2024, perpetrators of coercive control in intimate partner relationships may be charged with the offence and face imprisonment for up to 7 years.

Five of the state's leading DFV experts and trainers, have joined forces to pass on their knowledge in a comprehensive one-day workshop covering modules such as behavioural indicators, practical interventions, and how coercive control may be experienced for different people in different communities.

Director of CCWT, Debbie Cornale, says:

"*Tackling the horrendous level of domestic violence being experienced by women needs to be a priority. We need workers on the frontline to become confident in working within the new legislation about coercive control, so they can in turn support and educate women and the broader communities who engage with their services.*"

"Ultimately, we agree that focus needs to be on changing behaviours of the perpetrators, but we also hope this educational campaign will lead to long-term positive outcomes for women and children experiencing harm."

Starting in June, the face-to-face training will commence in Sydney Metro locations and will reach as far as Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Bourke and Bega. Facilitators will deliver 40 workshops during the 5-month program, with online webinars commencing early next year.

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Jodie Harrison said:

"It is crucial that domestic and family violence support workers can identify the signs of coercive control and know how to respond."

"Coercive control will become illegal from 1 July this year. Making sure the sector recognises this insidious form of abuse will allow them to provide tailored support for victim survivors experiencing it."

"The offence is complex so the government is making sure all the key agencies and the domestic and family violence workforce are appropriately trained."

CCWT will also be working in close partnership with AbSec to provide culturally safe co-facilitation in districts with significant Aboriginal populations.

To find out more about the program, please click here.

The Centre for Community Welfare Training (CCWT) is a division of the Association for Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA), the peak body for the child and family community services sector.

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