

2026

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

(As presented)

(Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence)

Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2026

Contents

	Page
1 Name of Act	2
2 Commencement	2
3 Legislation amended	2
4 Offences against Act—application of Criminal Code etc Section 7A, note 1, new dot point	2
5 New part 3B	2
6 New part 21	5
7 Dictionary, definition of <i>conduct</i>	6
8 Dictionary, new definitions	6

Contents

		Page
Schedule 1	Consequential amendments	7
Part 1.1	Ombudsman Act 1989	7
Part 1.2	Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act 2016	7

2026

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

(As presented)

(Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence)

Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2026

A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1900*, and for other purposes

The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

1 **1 Name of Act**

2 This Act is the *Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Act 2026*.

3 **2 Commencement**

4 (1) Sections 3 and 6 commence on the day after this Act's notification
5 day.

6 *Note* The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on
7 the notification day (see [Legislation Act](#), s 75 (1)).

8 (2) The remaining provisions commence 2 years after this Act's
9 notification day.

10 **3 Legislation amended**

11 This Act amends the *Crimes Act 1900* and the legislation mentioned
12 in schedule 1.

13 **4 Offences against Act—application of Criminal Code etc**
14 **Section 7A, note 1, new dot point**

15 *insert*

- 16 • s 72J (Coercive control of family member)

17 **5 New part 3B**

18 *insert*

19 **Part 3B Coercive control**

20 **72I Definitions—pt 3B**

21 In this part:

22 *conduct* means an act or an omission to do an act.

23 *course of conduct* includes—

- 24 (a) conduct that is repeated or continuous or both; and

1 (b) a series of incidents of conduct that do not occur in immediate
2 succession or form an unbroken series.

3 *family member*, of a person—see the *Family Violence Act 2016*,
4 section 9.

5 *harm*—see the *Criminal Code*, dictionary.

6 **72J Coercive control of family member**

7 (1) A person commits an offence if—

8 (a) the person is an adult; and

9 (b) the person engages in a course of conduct consisting of family
10 violence against a family member of the person; and

11 (c) the person intends the course of conduct to coerce or control the
12 family member; and

13 (d) a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances, consider the
14 course of conduct likely to result in harm to, or fear of harm in,
15 the family member or someone else.

16 Maximum penalty: 700 penalty units, imprisonment for 7 years or
17 both.

18 (2) For subsection (1) (b)—

19 (a) a course of conduct may consist of family violence if it consists
20 of any combination of incidents of family violence; and

21 (b) whether a course of conduct consisting of family violence exists
22 must be assessed by considering the totality of the conduct.

23 (3) Subsection (1) does not apply if the course of conduct was reasonable
24 in all the circumstances.

25 *Note* The defendant has an evidential burden in relation to the matter
26 mentioned in s (3) (see *Criminal Code*, s 58).

- 1 (4) For a person to be found guilty of an offence against subsection (1),
2 the trier of fact must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that there
3 was a course of conduct consisting of family violence.
- 4 (5) However—
- 5 (a) the trier of fact is not required to be satisfied of the particulars
6 of any specific incident of family violence alleged to form part
7 of the course of conduct of which it would have to be satisfied
8 if the incident were charged as a separate offence; and
- 9 (b) if the trier of fact is a jury—the members of the jury are not
10 required to be satisfied about the same incidents of family
11 violence alleged to form part of the course of conduct.
- 12 (6) In a proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), the
13 prosecution—
- 14 (a) is not required to allege the particulars for any specific incident
15 of family violence to the extent necessary if the incident were
16 charged as a separate offence; but
- 17 (b) is required to allege—
- 18 (i) the nature and description of the conduct alleged to form
19 part of the course of conduct; and
- 20 (ii) particulars of the period of time over which the course of
21 conduct took place.
- 22 (7) In a proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), the prosecution
23 is not required to prove that the person intended each incident of
24 family violence to coerce or control the person’s family member.

25 **72K Review of provisions about coercive control**

- 26 (1) The Minister administering the *Domestic Violence Agencies Act 1986*
27 must review the operation of the amendments to this Act made by the
28 *Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Act 2026* as soon as
29 practicable after the end of 3 years after this section commences.

1 (2) The Minister must present a report of the review to the Legislative
2 Assembly within 1 year after the day the review is started.

3 (3) This section expires 6 years after the day it commences.

4 **6 New part 21**

5 *insert*

6 **Part 21 Coercive control advisory**
7 **committee**

8 **433 Advisory committee**

9 (1) The coercive control advisory committee is established.

10 (2) The function of the advisory committee is to advise the responsible
11 Minister about the offence relating to coercive control mentioned in
12 the *Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Act 2026*, section 5,
13 including the implementation of the offence.

14 (3) The advisory committee is made up of members appointed by the
15 responsible Minister who the Minister considers have relevant skills
16 and experience.

17 *Note* For laws about appointments, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.3.

18 (4) The advisory committee may establish an expert reference group to
19 assist the committee in the exercise of its function.

20 (5) In this section:

21 *responsible Minister* means the Minister administering the [Domestic](#)
22 [Violence Agencies Act 1986](#).

23 **434 Expiry—pt 21**

24 This part expires 3 years after the day it commences.

1 **7 Dictionary, definition of *conduct***

2 *substitute*

3 *conduct*—

4 (a) for part 3B (Coercive control)—see section 72I; and

5 (b) for part 13 (Unfitness to plead and mental impairment)—see the
6 [Criminal Code](#), section 13.

7 **8 Dictionary, new definitions**

8 *insert*

9 *course of conduct*, for part 3B (Coercive control)—see section 72I.

10 *family member*, of a person, for part 3B (Coercive control)—see the
11 [Family Violence Act 2016](#), section 9.

12 *harm*, for part 3B (Coercive control)—see the [Criminal Code](#),
13 dictionary.

1 **Schedule 1** **Consequential amendments**

2 (see s 3)

3 **Part 1.1** **Ombudsman Act 1989**

4 **[1.1]** **Section 17E (1), definition of *reportable conduct*, new**
5 **paragraph (b) (iii) (BA)**

6 *insert*

7 (BA) section 72J (Coercive control of family member);

8 **Part 1.2** **Victims of Crime (Financial**
9 **Assistance) Act 2016**

10 **[1.2]** **Schedule 1, division 1.2.2, new item 1A**

11 *before item 1, insert*

1A	Crimes Act	72J	coercive control
----	----------------------------	-----	------------------

12

Endnotes

1 Presentation speech

Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on 28 May 2026.

2 Notification

Notified under the [Legislation Act](#) on 2026.

3 Republications of amended laws

For the latest republication of amended laws, see www.legislation.act.gov.au.

© Australian Capital Territory 2026