

# Media Statement

## Affirmative Consent and Coercive Control Laws

6TH OF MARCH 2024

The Centre for Women & Co. and Men & Co. Services are thrilled to see the Queensland Government's Affirmative Consent and Coercive Control Laws have passed today.

The Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 was introduced on 11 October 2023 and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for consideration.

Today we were invited to Parliament House to witness the passing of these laws. The affirmative consent legislation criminalizes stealthing (which is the tampering or removing of a condom without consent). Coercive Control is now a standalone criminal offence.

With penalties reaching up to 14 years incarceration for perpetrators, these laws signify a strong step in addressing violence within our communities.

Furthermore, a permanent commissioner was established for victims and a sexual violence review board. This aims to enhance the criminal justice system responses for survivors of sexual violence through placing empathy and effectiveness at the forefront of the system.

These changes signify the acknowledgement of the trauma and barriers survivors face when interfacing with the criminal justice system. It also highlights the focus on recovery and healing for survivors.

Today was a major milestone for survivors of sexual violence and domestic and family violence across the state.