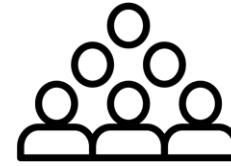




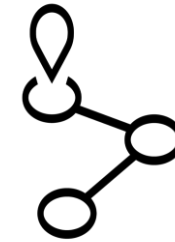
Forced Marriage Public Consultation: Overview

In July 2024, the **Standing Council of Attorneys-General** agreed to conduct **public consultation on enhancing forced marriage civil protections and remedies**. Led by the Australian Government in partnership with all state and territory governments, consultations commenced on 29 July 2024 and concluded on 23 September 2024. Public consultation focused on **three key areas**:

1. Building a **shared understanding** of forced marriage as a form of family and domestic violence (FDV)
2. Enhancing **education and awareness raising**
3. Strengthening **civil protections and remedies**.



Met with >240 people from >130 orgs, including engaging with people with lived experience

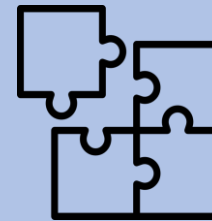
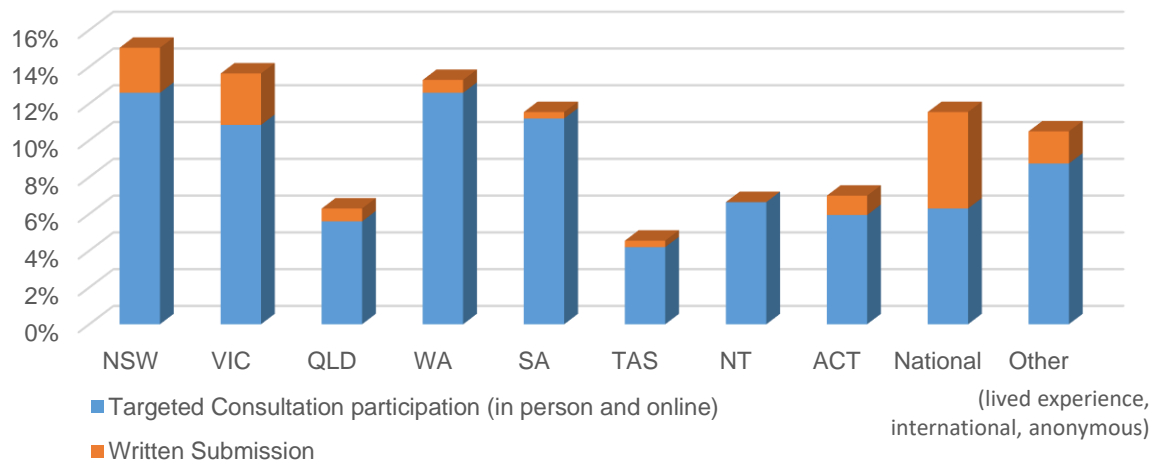


Visited every state and territory



Analysed 44 written responses

Participation by jurisdiction and engagement type



1. Building a shared understanding

The consultation highlighted:

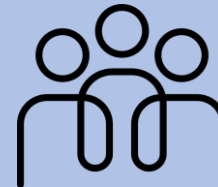
- ongoing need for forced marriage specialisation and recognition as a form of modern slavery
- strong support for building a stronger shared understanding of forced marriage as a form of FDV
- practical suggestions about how a shared understanding can be built
- more work is needed to understand the intersections of forced marriage with different forms of violence and to reflect that it is a process not a point in time.



2. Education and Awareness-raising

The consultation highlighted:

- strong support for forced marriage education and awareness-raising initiatives
- strong support for linking with existing initiatives, including on FDV, consent and coercive control
- strong support for culturally sensitive and appropriate responses, including those led by communities and people with lived experience
- more work is needed to understand existing education and awareness-raising efforts and to identify opportunities to leverage and scale these.



3. Civil Protections and Remedies

The consultation highlighted:

- the importance of a nationally consistent and coordinated approach to a model
- gaps that could be addressed in the model
- differing views on the best option for taking forward the model, including the role of education and awareness
- the importance of a victim-centred and culturally appropriate response
- broader opportunities to strengthen protections through intersecting law and frameworks, such as migration, family, marriage and child protection.