

adoption	the process by which a couple become the legal parents of a child born to someone else
adoption plan	a plan made by agreement between the adoptive parents and birth parents, often called open adoption
apprehended domestic violence order (ADVO)	an order made to protect a person against the behaviour of someone with whom they are or have been in a domestic relationship
apprehended personal violence order (APVO)	an order made to protect a person against the behaviour of someone with whom they have never had a domestic relationship
apprehended violence order (AVO)	an order imposed by a Local Court which restricts the behaviour of the defendant for a period of time

artificial insemination	the practice whereby semen is medically implanted into a woman's reproductive system so that she can bear a child
artificial reproductive technology (ART)	technologies that allow women to become pregnant via artificial means, such as artificial insemination and IVF; also known as birth technologies
autonomy of children	the ability of children to make more and more decisions for themselves as they grow older
binding financial agreements	agreements that will be enforced by the law and which deal with some or all of the financial resources of the parties to a marriage or de facto relationship
blended family	a married or de facto couple and their children from previous relationships

care plan

a plan which sets out the steps that will be taken by a family to resolve the concern that Community Services has about a child

child

a person under the age of 18 years; also known as a 'minor'

child abuse

assault of a child, including sexual assault, ill-treatment of a child or exposing a child to behaviour that psychologically harms him or her

conciliation

the process by which a conciliator or mediator listens to both parties to a dispute and makes suggestions in an effort to bring the two parties to agreement

conscience vote

when politicians vote on legislation according to their personal moral beliefs, not according to party political policy

consent order

an enforceable agreement made by separating people about a wide range of matters

contact veto

an order lodged with Community Services preventing contact between an adopted adult and his or her biological parent

counselling

the process by which a third party listens to the parties to a dispute and helps them to minimise their differences and reach agreement, involving a healing focus

customary law marriage

a marriage entered into according to aboriginal tribal custom rather than according to Australian law

de facto relationship

when two people live together as a married couple, though they are not legally married

divorce

the legal dissolution
of a marriage

domestic violence

actual or threatened
harm or harassment
within a domestic
relationship