

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 2, 2025

Meeting of the OPCAT Advisory Group

8 September 2025

On 8 September 2025, the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman's OPCAT Advisory Group (OAG) held its second meeting for the year, chaired by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Iain Anderson.

OAG members discussed various matters including:

- a series of questions from the ACT Inspector of Custodial Services regarding best practice approaches to engaging people with lived experience
- best practice approaches to support the Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) continue operationalising its role as Independent Visitor for Children in Immigration Detention
- updates on the recent work of the Commonwealth NPM including the immigration detention service provider transition, visits to seagoing vessels used as places of detention and proposed expansion of activity into other detention settings
- updates on the recent work of the NPM Coordinator including the drafting and finalisation of 3 pieces of joint written work on behalf of Australian NPM members.

This meeting marked the first opportunity for Australian NPM members to bring questions directly to the OAG, to seek OAG members' advice on matters related to their areas of expertise. The meeting demonstrated the value of OAG engagement for both the Commonwealth Ombudsman and for members of the broader Australian NPM, as each navigate the continued challenges of OPCAT implementation in Australia. OAG discussions again demonstrated both the need for and the value of effective, independent and adequately-resourced oversight of places of deprivation of liberty, working towards the prevention of torture and other ill treatment.

In 2020, the Commonwealth Ombudsman established the OAG to provide expert advice and guidance to the Ombudsman about their functions and responsibilities as the Commonwealth NPM and as the Coordinator of the Australian NPM. The OAG's terms of reference are available [here](#).

More information on recent OPCAT developments in Australia can be found [here](#).

For more information visit ombudsman.gov.au or call 1300 362 072.