



National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Network

Communiqué no 5 – 2023

Meeting – 15 August 2023

On 15 August 2023, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, as NPM Coordinator, convened the fifth meeting of Australia's NPM Network.

The NPM Network is the collection of bodies and people currently nominated or appointed as NPMs by Australian jurisdictions, to give effect to Australia's obligations under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT). The agencies and individuals currently nominated as NPMs have diverse remits, backgrounds, and experience. A list of the agencies and individuals currently nominated as NPMs can be accessed from our [website](#) under 'National Preventive Mechanisms'.

NPM Network members discussed a range of matters including:

- issues with access to health care in detention facilities
- the treatment and conditions of children and young people in youth detention environments in Australia.

NPM Network members shared updates with each other on the various activities they are undertaking in the detention space. NPM Network meetings continue to be an important forum for the members to observe common issues and concerns across different locations and detention environments.



The Australian NPM Network is committed to working together to progress OPCAT implementation in Australia and to produce the first Australian NPM Annual Report. These joint initiatives serve as significant milestones in Australia's OPCAT implementation process and aid members in fulfilling OPCAT's preventive mandate.

The NPM Network intends to meet again towards the end of 2023.

As Australia's NPM Coordinator, the Commonwealth Ombudsman chairs meetings of the NPM Network.

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