

National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Network

NPM Network Communiqué no 3, 2022

Meeting – 12 December 2022

On 12 December 2022, the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, as NPM Coordinator, convened the third meeting of Australia's NPM Network.

The NPM Network is the collection of bodies and people currently 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 recent developments relevant to OPCAT and the mandate of NPMs including:

- the recent suspended visit of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), and the Ombudsman's appearance before the Committee against Torture (Committee) as part of the Committee's consideration of Australia's sixth periodic report under the Convention against Torture
- developing Terms of Reference for how the NPM Network will operate going forward
- developing a framework to prepare NPM joint statements and communications in the lead up to, and following, the commencement of Australia's NPM obligations on 20 January 2023
- areas of focus and priorities for 2023, including the identification and coordination of training opportunities and producing the first annual report for the NPM Network.

The Chair thanked NPM Network members for their support and strong engagement during the SPT's visit, and for his appearance before the Committee as Australia's NPM Coordinator. These represent important milestones in Australia's OPCAT implementation journey and provide momentum to continue the important work of achieving OPCAT's preventive mandate.

With the commencement of Australia's NPM obligations on 20 January 2023, the NPM Network is committed to working together collaboratively to progress OPCAT implementation.

The NPM Network intends to meet again in March 2023.

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

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