COMMUNIQUÉ No. 2, 2026

Meeting of the OPCAT Advisory Group

2 June 2026

On 2 June 2026, the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman's OPCAT Advisory Group (OAG) met for its second meeting of 2026, chaired by the Deputy Commonwealth Ombudsman, Ms Julie O'Brien.

OAG members discussed matters relevant to Australia's implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), including:

- Approaches to expanding the Australian NPM's external engagement with stakeholders and individuals with specialist expertise
- Recent monitoring activity undertaken under OPCAT
- Preparations to mark the 20th anniversary of OPCAT on 22 June 2026.

The next meeting of the OAG will be held in October.

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.