

# National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Network

## NPM Network Communiqué no 1, 2022

### Meeting – 8 March 2022

The Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, as NPM Coordinator, convened the first meeting of Australia's NPM Network on 8 March 2022.

The NPM Network is the collection of bodies and people appointed as NPMs by various 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, background and experience.

OPCAT requires a system of regular visits by NPMs to places where people are or may be deprived of their liberty, to support the prevention of torture and other ill treatment.

This meeting brought NPM Network members together for the first time to discuss issues that include:

- the status of OPCAT implementation and NPM appointment in member jurisdictions
- the role of the NPM Coordinator within the NPM Network
- an approach to developing the NPM Coordinator's reporting arrangements
- the current and future needs of NPM Network members, including in relation to training and sharing resources.

Some meeting participants indicated that they were only potential NPMs, given that enabling legislation and associated powers and functions were yet to be introduced, and that resources to carry out OPCAT functions had not yet been identified or allocated.

The NPM Network will work in a spirit of collaboration to promote the implementation of OPCAT in Australia.

The NPM Network intends to meet again in June 2022.

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The NPM Network is coordinated by the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, in its role as NPM Coordinator for Australia.

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