

# COMMUNIQUE No. 2, 2024

Meeting of the OPCAT Advisory Group

**15 October 2024**

On 15 October 2024, the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman's OPCAT Advisory Group (OAG) held its second and final meeting for 2024. The meeting was chaired by the Commonwealth Ombudsman, Iain Anderson.

OAG members discussed various matters including:

- updates from recent work of the Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) including recent and upcoming publications and proposed expansion into other detention settings – the focus to date having been on Australian Federal Police, Defence and immigration detention facilities
- current work of the NPM Coordinator, including preparation of the Australian NPM Annual Report for 2023-24, forward planning and training opportunities for members of the Australian NPM in 2025
- the continuing lack of full implementation of OPCAT across all Australian jurisdictions and specific issues arising in various jurisdictions, including the reintroduction of spit hoods in the Northern Territory.

These matters demonstrate the essential work being undertaken to meet the requirements of OPCAT implementation in Australia. However, the meeting also highlighted the clear obstacles around fully achieving implementation of OPCAT, and 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](#).