



Australian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)

Communiqué no 1, 2026

Meeting #13 – 30 March 2026

On 30 March, members of the Australian NPM held their first meeting for 2026.

Members received a guest presentation from Andreea Lachs, on her recently developed '*Human rights-compliant, culturally appropriate monitoring expectations for police custody*'. These expectations are intended to guide oversight across environments where police deprive people of their liberty. Crucially they place a central focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, acknowledging their significant over-representation across detention settings, including police custody.

Members also received a presentation from Shona Reid, South Australian Training Centre Visitor, on her '*Inquiry into the use of audiovisual link in Youth Court proceedings for children and young people at the Adelaide Youth Training Centre (AYTC)*'. The presentation outlined findings on the use of audiovisual link (AVL) in youth court proceedings in South Australia and its implications for children and young people in detention. Members noted the relevance of these findings across jurisdictions, including in considering the relationship between court processes, detention conditions, and OPCAT's preventive focus.

The meeting provided an opportunity for members to share updates on recent work and emerging issues across different detention environments. Members also progressed discussion on collective forward planning, and engagement with other oversight bodies, recognising the value of broader information and expertise sharing.

Members will meet again in mid-2026.

The Australian NPM is the collective of bodies and people currently nominated or appointed as NPMs by Commonwealth, state and territory governments, 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).

See our [website](#) for a full list of Australian NPM members, updates on joint work by the Australian NPM, and further information on OPCAT developments in Australia.

As NPM Coordinator, the Commonwealth Ombudsman chairs meetings of the Australian NPM.

Contact the NPM Coordinator:

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