

# National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Network

## NPM Network Communiqué no 4, 2023

### Meeting – 24 March 2023

On 24 March 2023, the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, as NPM Coordinator, convened the fourth meeting of Australia's NPM Network.

The NPM Network is the collection of bodies and people currently nominated or 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 terminated visit of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), and the 20 January 2023 deadline for Australia to establish its NPM
- the official launch of the NPM Network IT platform to share resources and support members in undertaking their OPCAT obligations, and
- developing a framework for the first Australian NPM Network annual report to be published in early 2024.

The meeting also included a training session facilitated by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the Norwegian NPM. This session was immensely valuable and allowed Network members to ask questions and collaborate with their international colleagues. The APT and the Norwegian NPM provided helpful insights on the function and scope of the NPM mandate, and how these can be implemented in practice.

The Chair thanked NPM Network members for their ongoing support and strong engagement, especially in the production of recent joint network statements and submissions.

The Australian NPM Network is committed to working together to progress OPCAT implementation in Australia. These collaborative efforts represent important milestones in Australia's OPCAT implementation journey and supports members to achieve OPCAT's preventive mandate.

The NPM Network intends to meet again in July 2023.

#### Contact us

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

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