

# Information for detained people

## Preventing abuse in places of detention

We are the ACT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) made up of 3 independent bodies: the ACT Human Rights Commission, the ACT Inspector of Custodial Services and the ACT Ombudsman.

The ACT NPM applies an international agreement aimed at strengthening the protection of people in places of detention.

Known as OPCAT, that agreement seeks to prevent torture, ill treatment or cruel and excessive punishment in places where people are detained or deprived of their liberty.

### **To do this we:**

- conduct regular visits
- see how people in detention are being treated
- educate service providers
- make recommendations to government, to strengthen protections against abuse.

### **Places of detention in the ACT include:**

- police custody (like police cells and vehicles)
- prisons/correctional facilities
- youth detention facilities
- closed mental health and disability wards and facilities.

### **We have free access to:**

- all places of detention
- information about people in detention and how they are treated
- people in detention, staff and contractors

### **What happens if I tell the NPM something?**

- Anything you tell us will only be used or passed on with your permission.
- You will not be identified.
- You cannot be stopped from talking to us.
- You cannot get in trouble or be punished for talking to us or giving us information.
- With information people give us, we can make recommendations to government, detaining authorities and service providers to improve treatment and conditions of detention.



**ACT National  
Preventive Mechanism**

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You can also contact us at any of the following



Phone: **1800 932 010**

Phone: **(02) 5117 3650**

Phone: **(02) 6205 2222**