

OPCAT

Information for service providers

The ACT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) is responsible for implementing an international agreement called the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

OPCAT is aimed at preventing torture and ill treatment in places where people are detained or deprived of their liberty. To do this, we conduct regular, preventive visits to these places.

The ACT NPM is made up of 3 independent bodies:

- ACT Human Rights Commission
- ACT Ombudsman
- ACT Inspector of Custodial Services

Places of detention in the ACT include:

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

Under OPCAT, and the *Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Act 2018*, the ACT NPM should have free and full access to:

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

The ACT NPM can provide advice and education and may make recommendations to government, detaining authorities and service providers about treatment and conditions of detention.

What happens if I share information with the ACT NPM?

All information is kept strictly confidential.

OPCAT and the Act prohibit reprisals against any person communicating with or providing information to the ACT NPM. If you believe you have been punished or victimised, you should contact us immediately.



**ACT National
Preventive Mechanism**

actnpm@ombudsman.gov.au | npm.act.gov.au

You can also contact us at any of the following



ICS
ACT Inspector
of Custodial
Services



ACT Ombudsman



**ACT HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION**
Australian Capital Territory

Phone: **1800 932 010** Phone: **(02) 5117 3650** Phone: **(02) 6205 2222**