

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### TASMANIAN NPM CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

In December 2023, the Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), Mr Richard Connock, released his implementation report *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania*. The report provides eight recommendations to establish an NPM office and governance framework that is best suited to Tasmania, and which complies with Tasmania's obligations under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT).

Among these recommendations is that the Tasmanian NPM establish a Civil Society Advisory Council, which will provide specialist advice on matters critical to the success of the Tasmanian NPM.

In accordance with the report, the Tasmanian NPM invites expressions of interest from people with lived experience of deprivation of liberty, civil society organisations and experts to join this new Advisory Council.

The closing date for expressions of interest is **5pm, Friday 19 April 2024**.

To submit an expression of interest, please provide a short statement outlining your suitability to join the Advisory Council, and a brief background of your organisation's mission and activities (if applicable). Please limit your response to no more than two pages.

Applications may be submitted through [www.npm.tas.gov.au](http://www.npm.tas.gov.au), or by email: [enquiries@npm.tas.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@npm.tas.gov.au).

Further information about the Advisory Council and Tasmanian NPM is provided below.

Enquiries related to this expression of interest may be made to [enquiries@npm.tas.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@npm.tas.gov.au)

### **About the Tasmanian NPM:**

The Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) is an independent statutory body established in accordance with the *OPCAT Implementation Act 2021* (Tas).

The purpose of the Tasmanian NPM is to prevent the torture and ill-treatment of people deprived of their liberty by embedding best practice human rights. It does this through proactive oversight of places where people are or may be deprived of their liberty, ongoing cooperation with government and relevant authorities, and by providing education and advice. Places where people may be deprived of their liberty include prisons, youth detention, police and court cells, mental health facilities, hospitals, schools, aged care homes, out of home care, and supported accommodation.

The Tasmanian NPM works alongside NPM's across Australia to ensure the fulfilment of Australia's obligations under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT).

Further information about the Tasmanian NPM and OPCAT is available at <https://npm.tas.gov.au/about>

### **About the Tasmanian NPM Civil Society Advisory Council:**

Civil society engagement with the NPM is a key recommendation of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT). Recognising that this approach is best practice, NPM bodies around the world have adopted various models to ensure civil society actively participates in their activities. The Tasmanian NPM intends to follow this approach.

Recommendation 6 of the *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania* report provides that the Tasmanian NPM introduce a formal and permanent Civil Society Advisory Council, which is integrated into its governance structure.

The Advisory Council will informally report and provide advice in relation to Tasmanian NPM activities, on the exercise of functions, and promote regular civil society engagement with the NPM Office. It will also provide a forum to obtain stakeholder feedback on emerging issues. Through the Advisory Council, the Tasmanian NPM will also work directly with stakeholders to ensure their concerns and aspirations are understood and considered in developing Tasmanian NPM strategies.

This framework will enable individuals with specialised knowledge and lived experience of deprivation of liberty to inform the delivery of the Tasmanian NPM's functions.

The Advisory Council will initially consist of seven (7) independent members, each holding experience or expertise in one or more of the following areas:

1. Children and young people;
2. People with disability;
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
4. Health and social services;
5. Lived experience of deprivation of liberty;
6. Custodial settings; and
7. Expertise in human rights law.

Each person appointed to the Advisory Council will serve for a fixed term period of two (2) years, commencing in June 2024.

The Advisory Council will meet three (3) times per year. Meetings will be in person. The Office of the Tasmanian NPM will provide secretariat services and pay reasonable travel and preparatory expenses.

