



OFFICE OF THE TASMANIAN NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

TASMANIAN NPM SEEKS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO HELP ADVISE ON THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT IN THE STATE

The Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), Mr Richard Connock, is establishing a Civil Society Advisory Council to provide specialist advice on the NPM's activities in the state.

The Advisory Council is one of eight recommendations made in Mr Connock's report [Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania](#), which was handed down in December last year.

The report's recommendations have been designed to implement an NPM operating model that is best suited to Tasmania. The Tasmanian NPM works alongside NPMs across the country 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).

'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,' Mr Connock said.

'It does this through proactive oversight of settings 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.'

Civil society engagement with the NPM is a key recommendation of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT). Recognising this approach as 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,' Mr Connock said.

'We will introduce a formal and permanent Civil Society Advisory Council, which is integrated into our 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.'

Mr Connock said people with lived experience of deprivation of liberty, civil society organisations and experts were invited to express interest in joining the new Advisory Council.

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.

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

More information can be found at: www.npm.tas.gov.au

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Media Enquiries contact Paula Catchpole: 0472 832 514