

7 May 2025

Shining a light on Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

The [ACT National Preventive Mechanism \(ACT NPM\)](#) has today undertaken its first joint visit to the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

The ACT NPM comprises the ACT Human Rights Commission, the ACT Custodial Inspector, and the ACT Ombudsman and is responsible for undertaking regular preventive visits to places of detention within the ACT under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

The visiting team consisted of Rebecca Minty, ACT Custodial Inspector; Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman; Pene Mathew, ACT Human Rights Commissioner; and Jodie Griffiths-Cook, ACT Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner.

Since March 2025, the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre has experienced a sustained increase in the number of young people detained there. The visit focused on what this is meaning for the treatment of young people in detention.

The team engaged with management, staff, and young people throughout the visit. The ACT NPM will provide its findings to government. A summary report, outlining findings and any recommendations, will be made available in due course.

The ACT NPM notes the Custodial Inspector undertook a comprehensive [Healthy Centre Review](#) that was tabled in December 2024. The review looked at all aspects of treatment and care for young people and made several recommendations. A response to this review from the ACT Government is still forthcoming. The ACT NPM calls on the ACT Government to respond to the recommendations.

The ACT NPM appreciates the cooperation provided by the Community Services Directorate in facilitating this visit and acknowledges the young people and staff who engaged with the team.

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