

Media release – 12 December 2024

Darwin facility not fit to house immigration detainees says Commonwealth torture prevention body

FOR MEDIA

Today, the Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) published a summary of their visit to the Northern Alternative Place of Detention (APOD) in Darwin.

The Commonwealth NPM undertook an announced visit to the hotel currently being used as an APOD and found the facilities are not fit for purpose.

Head of the Commonwealth NPM, Mr Iain Anderson, said:

"I have previously raised concerns about hotels not being appropriate to house people in immigration detention. This facility lacks appropriate access to fresh air and exercise".

The report notes that the accommodation areas were cramped, and while facilities appeared to be clean, some rooms had water damage to walls and carpeting. Recreational facilities were limited and not fit for purpose, especially the areas used for access to fresh air and outdoor recreation/exercise.

Mr Anderson concluded with:

"I am pleased that the Department of Home Affairs has agreed to my recommendations that they review the suitability of the current facility in Darwin."

You can read the [full Post Visit Summary on our website](#).

For more information visit ombudsman.gov.au or call 1300 362 072

