

Media release – 17 December 2024

Use of force common in Melbourne immigration detention facilities

Today, the Commonwealth National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) published a summary of their visit to the Melbourne Immigration Detention Centre (MIDC) and Broadmeadows Residential Precinct (BRP).

The visit and a review of data provided by the Department of Home Affairs found detention staff frequently used force, including unplanned use of force, against detained persons.

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

“People detained in the Melbourne IDC have told us about frequent excessive use of force by facility staff, and some have even complained to the Australian Human Rights Commission.”

The report includes a case study on use of mechanical restraints during transport to and from hospital, and highlights that there is no formal process to review use of force incidents unless the detained person makes a formal complaint, or an incident is referred to law enforcement for investigation.

Further, the Commonwealth NPM identified that the High Care Accommodation is not accessible for people with disability, despite previous recommendations to improve infrastructure.

Mr Anderson concluded with;

“I am pleased that the Department of Home Affairs has committed to improve the way they review unplanned use of force incidents that occur in detention centres. However, I am disappointed that the Department has not agreed to ensure that the High Care Accommodation is accessible for people with disabilities.”

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

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