

29 May 2018

Chair
The Social Policy Scrutiny Committee
Via email: SPSC@nt.gov.au :LACommittees@nt.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Re: Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture) Bill 2018

I refer to the abovenamed Bill introduced into Parliament on 10 May 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and make submissions on the Bill. The Bill is supported by the Anti-Discrimination Commission, as the implementation of the Northern Territories and Australia's obligation under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, is vital for the protection of the communities most vulnerable.

I commend the NT on putting in place this initial step to facilitate the external oversight by International Subcommittee of places of detention in the NT and look forward to working with the NT as the every-day monitoring role and oversight of all places of detention is established, legislated for and finalised in the Northern Territory. This provides a fundamental mechanism to ensure respect for and the proactive protection of the human rights of all detainees.

Yours sincerely,



Sally Sievers
Anti-Discrimination Commissioner