

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Attorney-General:

Optional Protocol Convention Against Torture funding

- 1. Does the expiration of NTG funding for the Ombudsman to carry out the Optional Protocol Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) function mean that independent monitoring of Northern Territory places of detention will no longer happen?**

No inspections have been conducted using National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) functions under the OPCAT as the NPM as the legislation to provide those powers has not commenced.

However, the NT Ombudsman, Children's Commissioner and the Community Visitor Program are all independent bodies that have ongoing obligations to visit places of detention as part of their roles and functions. There are also official visitor programs for adult correctional and youth detention centres that are currently administered by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice and the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities respectively.

- 2. During this financial year reporting period, how many visits have been made to detention centres or prisons by NPM Inspectors?**

As the relevant legislation has not commenced, no visits have been made by NPM Inspectors.

- 3. What funding is provided in this budget for the implementation of the NT's commitment under OPCAT?**

Nil.