



# ACT National Preventive Mechanism

29 June 2026

## **ACT Youth Justice Forum – Developing a Strategic Purpose & Model of Care for Youth Detention**

In September 2025, the ACT Government tabled its [response](#) to the Inspector of Custodial Service's 2024 [Healthy Centre Review](#) (HCR). The Government accepted the Inspector's recommendation that it develop an ACT Youth Justice Strategic Plan and review the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre's model of care through a consultative process.

Today, the [ACT National Preventive Mechanism](#) (**ACT NPM**)<sup>1</sup> partnered with the ACT Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) to co-facilitate a forum to inform the development of a fit for purpose strategic plan and model of care for Bimberi.

The forum drew on national and international experiences with speakers including Shona Reid (South Australian Guardian for Children and Young People, and Training Centre Visitor); Kate Bjur (Interlace Advisory & Churchill Fellow); David McGuire (Diagrama Foundation: Spain); and Professor Fiona Dyer (University of Strathclyde: Scotland).

Participants included key decision-makers, and those working directly and indirectly with young people in contact with the criminal legal system, in government and community roles. Participants were actively engaged in discussions and workshops throughout the day, applying learnings to the ACT context.

It was evident that a model of care in the ACT requires a focus on therapeutic outcomes delivered through evidence-based programs both inside and outside Bimberi, with the focus being on social reintegration, personal development, and reducing recidivism by addressing behaviours that may contribute towards offending. To be effective, this also needs an emphasis on cultural safety.

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<sup>1</sup> The ACT NPM comprises the ACT Human Rights Commission, the ACT Inspector of Custodial Services, 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).

