



# HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES FOR **ACT CORRECTIONAL CENTRES**


## HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES FOR **ACT CORRECTIONAL CENTRES**

As a detainee in an ACT  
correctional centre you have  
rights and responsibilities.



**ACT**  
Government

Justice and Community Safety



## We care about you in prison and our staff are expected to treat you in line with policies and procedures for your safety and the safety of others.

You are also expected to follow our rules and orders so we can look after your health, give you education and training, and provide you time with your family and friends.

As a detainee some of your rights are limited. This may be for safety or security reasons. You should feel your treatment is fair and at no time should you feel unfairly discriminated against.

We have **Human Rights Principles for ACT Correctional Centres** which explain how you should be treated in prison and tell you about access to support and services.

### WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES?

The ACT Government is responsible for your treatment and care at ACT correctional centres. We have committed to the **Human Rights Principles for ACT Correctional Centres** to support you at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. These cover four main areas:

1. Safety
2. Respect and dignity
3. Purposeful activity (i.e. access to activities, programs and support)
4. Rehabilitation and release planning for when you leave prison

For example, it is expected that:

- > you receive a proper induction with information about the prison, including how to contact your family and friends, and receive a health assessment;
- > your living conditions in prison are clean and of a reasonable standard;
- > we will give you as much time out of your cell as possible to work, study, receive health treatment and see your family and friends;
- > you can raise issues with staff and independent organisations such as the Ombudsman, ACT Human Rights Commission or Official Visitors;
- > if you are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, your distinct cultural rights are respected; and
- > before you return to the community, you receive help with clothing, Centrelink or bank support, accommodation, work or other opportunities to help you live a positive life in the community.

### WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

You can read or borrow the **Human Rights Principles for ACT Correctional Centres** at the AMC Library. Just ask our librarians for help. They are also on AMC computers.

If your family or friends want to read about the Principles, tell them to visit our website - [www.cs.act.gov.au](http://www.cs.act.gov.au).

### WHERE CAN I RAISE MY ISSUES?

You can make a request, raise issues or make a complaint to our staff or independent organisations.

Complaints made to independent organisations are confidential.

#### ACT Ombudsman

The ACT Ombudsman receives and investigates complaints that raise a matter of administration in relation to the AMC, and monitors systemic issues in the AMC.

#### Contact:

Phone: #74 (1300 362 072)

Indigenous line: #54 (1800 060 789)

Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)

Post: GPO Box 441, Canberra ACT 2601

Note: Communications with the Ombudsman's Office are not monitored

#### ACT Human Rights Commission

The ACT Human Rights Commission investigates complaints in relation to health services and unlawful discrimination, has the power to enter and inspect the AMC and can undertake systemic reviews on the impact of human rights of ACT Government laws.

#### Contact:

Phone: 6205 2222

Email: [HRCintake@act.gov.au](mailto:HRCintake@act.gov.au)

#### Official Visitors

Official Visitors receive and investigate detainee complaints and grievances, and have the power to enter and inspect the AMC.

#### Contact:

[Tracey.Whetnall@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Whetnall@act.gov.au)

[Shannon.Pickles@act.gov.au](mailto:Shannon.Pickles@act.gov.au)

[Denise.Brasser@act.gov.au](mailto:Denise.Brasser@act.gov.au)

#### Inspector of Correctional Services

The Inspector of Correctional Services does not take individual complaints from detainees but provides systemic review and oversight by examining and reviewing correctional centres and services and reviewing 'critical incidents'.