

## **Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022**

**Submission No:** 21  
**Submitted by:** Youth Advocacy Centre  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment

**Submission by**  
**YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE INC**  
**to the**  
**Legal Affairs and Safety Committee**  
**In relation to the**  
***Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention***  
***Against Torture) Bill 2022***



**11 January 2023**

The Youth Advocacy Centre Inc (YAC) is a well-respected specialist community legal and social welfare agency for young people who are involved in, or at risk of involvement in, the youth justice and/or child protection systems (10-18 years old) and/or are homeless or at risk of homelessness (15-25 years old) – young people who are among the most marginalised and excluded by our community and often the most harshly judged. YAC's aim is to provide a safety net of legal and social welfare services and then seek to transition young people to more secure lives and opportunities, for their benefit and that of the community more broadly.

#### **COMMENT IN RELATION TO THE BILL**

YAC is grateful for the opportunity to provide comment to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee in response to the proposed *Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2022* (Qld) (the Bill).

YAC is supportive of the legislative intent to facilitate access of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to places where persons are deprived of their liberty in Queensland, including youth detention centres and watch-houses. However, YAC is concerned that some aspects of the Bill are insufficient to ensure that Queensland – and therefore Australia – is fulfilling its international obligations under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*.

To best address these concerns, YAC supports the submission tendered by the Australian Human Rights Commission and the six recommendations made therein.

Katherine Hayes

CEO

Youth Advocacy Centre

Level 4/ 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane, Q 4101

[Admin@yac.net.au](mailto:Admin@yac.net.au)

Ph: (07) 3356 1002 or [REDACTED]