

To: The House of Representatives

This petition calls for the Ratification of the OPCAT

The OPCAT is a UN treaty that Australia has signed up to that would ensure national and international monitoring of people in these vulnerable situations.

Countries simply agreeing not to torture and to respect human rights doesn't work, especially for people that are in detention.

The transparency this creates acts as a deterrent to violating human rights in the first place.

It is much harder to torture and abuse people when you are being watched.

The OPCAT has bipartisan support, but has not been put into effect. Australia has sat on it since 2009.

Why is this important?

To ensure oversight and monitoring of places of detention, with an emphasis on deterrence of human rights abuses through transparency. This is especially significant within Immigration Detention. The Australian Human Rights Commission has called for a Royal Commission. The UN special rapporteur has found Australia in breach of the Convention Against Torture.

It would also provide a framework to ensure that there are protections and monitoring within other areas of concern such as police lock ups, disability care, aged care homes and involuntary psychiatric admissions