

FACT SHEET

Monitoring of Places of Detention (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) Bill 2013

The Bill is based on a national model Bill to allow Australia to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which Australia signed in 2009.

The Optional Protocol establishes a system of regular visits undertaken by independent international and national bodies to places where people are deprived of their liberty, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This Bill provides for periodic visits to places of detention by the United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture.

The Bill provides the United Nations Sub-Committee with access to places of detention, as well as information on detainees and sets out duties of detaining authorities.

A place of detention is any place where a person is deprived of their liberty, including prisons, police stations, psychiatric institutions, juvenile detention centres, and migrant detention centres.