



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Mr Peter Cain MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson (Deputy Chair),
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Corrections and Sentencing Legislation
Amendment Bills 2022

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Mr Peter Cain MLA
Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety
ACT Legislative Assembly

By email: LACommitteeJCS@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mr Cain

Inquiry into the Corrections and Sentencing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety's Inquiry into the Corrections and Sentencing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

The ACT Ombudsman (the Office) notes the proposed amendments that relate to searching procedures and would like to make the following comments.

Overall, the Office considers searching procedures should be responsive and proportionate to safety risks. The Office encourages communication and liaison with relevant parties, such as ACT Policing, to avoid any unnecessary repetition of detainee searches during the chain of custody.

The Office notes the proposed changes in the Bill to procedures involving strip searching of detainees. The Office would like to emphasise the importance of prioritising the use of the least intrusive search methods. There should be no delay in efforts by ACT Government authorities to move to less intrusive forms of searching, such as body scanning technology, which would achieve the same outcomes. The Office encourages a transition to less intrusive forms of searching as soon as possible, and no later than the scheduled 2-year review.

I would be happy to provide further information if this would assist the Committee's considerations.

Yours sincerely



Iain Anderson
ACT Ombudsman