

ACT CORRECTIVE SERVICES NEWSLETTER



A message from the Commissioner

This quarter has seen important achievements across ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS), including significant organisational milestones, improvements to operational procedures, and continued efforts to strengthen rehabilitation, cultural engagement and service delivery. These achievements reflect the professionalism, dedication and commitment demonstrated by staff across ACTCS every day.

This edition highlights initiatives that support rehabilitation, cultural connection and organisational improvements. Together, they demonstrate the positive impact ACTCS continues to make across the ACT community.

Blueprint for Change Program Successfully Concludes

The Blueprint for Change Program has reached successful completion, marking a significant milestone for ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS). Since 2022, the program delivered 15 recommendations that strengthened capability, improved culture and supported long-term organisational goals. Supported by a \$29.21 million investment, key achievements included increased staffing, upgraded equipment and facilities, enhanced training and professional development, and expanded wellbeing support for staff. An independent evaluation found significant improvements in staff morale, safety, capability and organisational culture.

New Millimeter Wave Technology at AMC

The successful installation of the Millimeter Wave Scanner at the Alexander Maconochie Centre marks a significant advancement in security capabilities. The technology provides a non-invasive screening method that strengthens contraband detection while supporting operational effectiveness and maintaining dignity throughout the screening process.

Following installation, the Security Systems team completed specialised training in the operation, maintenance and administration of the system. The team is now equipped to deliver staff training and guidance, manage the technology, and provide ongoing technical support to ensure its safe and effective use.



Alexander Maconochie Centre Management Unit Audit

At the inquest into the death in custody of Mr Luke Anthony Rich, the Coroner recommended an independent review of the safety of the rear cell doors in the Management Unit at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

The outcome of the independent review of the Management Unit rear cell doors is available on the [website](#).

AMC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Exhibition

In September, the Alexander Maconochie Centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Exhibition opened at Community Services #1 in Narrabundah, providing an opportunity for current and former detainees to share their culture, stories and artwork with the Canberra community. Minister Tough officially opened the exhibition and recognised the contribution of the artists whose work was on display.

The exhibition highlighted the role of culturally informed activities in supporting wellbeing, identity, personal development and rehabilitation, and remains open until 16 October 2026.

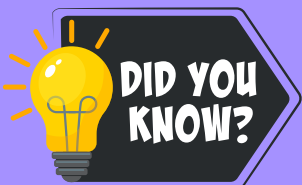
The online Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Detainee Art Catalogue, launched earlier this year, complements these efforts by providing an ongoing platform for artists to showcase their work. Featuring almost 80 artworks, the catalogue enables members of the public to engage with the collection and learn more about the stories behind each piece.

You can view the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Catalogue](#) here.



Policy in Practice - Behind the Scenes

Detainee observations play an important role in supporting safety at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. Depending on individual circumstances, staff may conduct observations at different intervals to monitor wellbeing and ensure appropriate support is provided when needed. ACT Corrective Services updated its Detainee Observations Operating Procedure this quarter to strengthen accountability, support accurate recordkeeping, and contribute to the safe and secure operation of the AMC.



Volunteer fire brigades across the Canberra region are benefiting from the donation of native plants propagated and grown by the Alexander Maconochie Centre Horticulture Team.

The initiative highlights ACT Corrective Services' commitment to fostering strong community connections, supporting local organisations, and contributing to the environmental wellbeing of the Canberra region.