



Australian Institute of Administrative Law 4 December 2025

Administrative decision making in prisons and other closed environments

5.15pm, 4 December 2025, to be followed by the AIAL Qld AGM and End of Year Celebration
Hemmant's List Centre, Level 6, Santos Place, 32 Turbot Street

Presenter **Anthony Reilly**, Queensland Ombudsman

Chair **Ben Cramer**, Assistant Crown Solicitor, Crown Law

The role of the Queensland Ombudsman is established under the *Ombudsman Act 2001*. Under that Act, the Ombudsman investigates complaints about the actions and decisions of Queensland state government departments, local councils and public authorities. As well as assessing and investigating complaints, the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman also works with those agencies to improve their decision-making and administrative practices.

Under the *Inspector of Detention Services Act 2022* (IDS Act) the Ombudsman has an additional role, the Inspector of Detention Services (Inspector). The IDS Act sets out a framework for review of detention services, inspection of places of detention and independent and transparent reporting. The focus of the Inspector is the prevention of harm rather than responding to complaints when harm occurs. This preventative focus examines the systems and the lived experiences of people detained. Over the past year, the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman has published several reports about issues in closed environments, including the *Prison overcrowding and other matters report* (February 2024) and the *Cleveland Youth Detention Centre inspection report: Focus on separation due to staff shortages* (August 2024). In those reports, there are issues raised about decision-making in those environments.

Anthony Reilly is the current Queensland Ombudsman and Inspector of Detention Services. He was appointed as Ombudsman in July 2020, and Inspector in December 2022. Mr Reilly is an experienced lawyer and public administrator. Prior to his current appointment, Mr Reilly served as CEO of Legal Aid Queensland, leading the delivery of legal services to financially disadvantaged people across Queensland. He has also held key leadership roles in a number of government departments and agencies including Queensland Health, Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Public Safety Business Agency. As a lawyer, Mr Reilly worked in community legal centres such as the Refugee and Immigration Legal Service and Basic Rights Queensland. Mr Reilly holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees, and a Master of Business Administration.

Ben Cramer joined Crown Law in 2015. He has worked in the area of administrative law and judicial review litigation in both government and private legal practice for over 20 years. He regularly advises Queensland Government agencies and statutory bodies in relation to judicial review proceedings, QCAT merits review proceedings, privacy and RTI issues, and decision-making generally. He represented the Minister for Immigration over many years in merits and judicial review proceedings in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Federal Courts, respectively, often as solicitor advocate. Ben also has experience representing clients before Commissions of Inquiry including the State of Queensland before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

**Admission is free to members of AIAL and \$35 (including GST) for non-members.
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