

An open metal padlock is shown on a sandy surface. The padlock is dark and appears to be made of steel or iron. The shackle is open and curved upwards. The body of the padlock has some markings, including the word 'YALE' and the number '4014'. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly sand or gravel.

The Impact of Human Rights Legislation on ACT Correctional Facilities

Belinda Owen
ACT Corrective Services

4 December 2007



Overview

- ◆ *Human Rights Act 2004*
- ◆ Human Rights audit on ACT correctional facilities
- ◆ Alexander Maconochie Centre design and operating philosophy
- ◆ SOTER X-Ray Bodyscanner

Human Rights Act 2004

- ◆ Introduction of *the Act* in the ACT
- ◆ Any limits on basic rights must:
 - Achieve a relevant **objective**
 - The **means**, even if rationally connected to the objective, shall be the least restrictive; and
 - Not have a disproportionately severe **affect** on the person to whom it applies.





What does this mean for ACT Corrective Services?

- ◆ Internal Audit - Policy and Implementation Framework
 - States ACT CS commitment to the *ACT Human Rights Act 2004*
 - Implementation of Human Rights to change occupational culture
 - Review of:
 - Belconnen Remand Centre (BRC)
 - Symonston Temporary Remand Centre (STRC)
 - Court Transport Unit (CTU)
 - Periodic Detention Centre (PDC)
 - Community Corrections
 - Sentence Administration Board



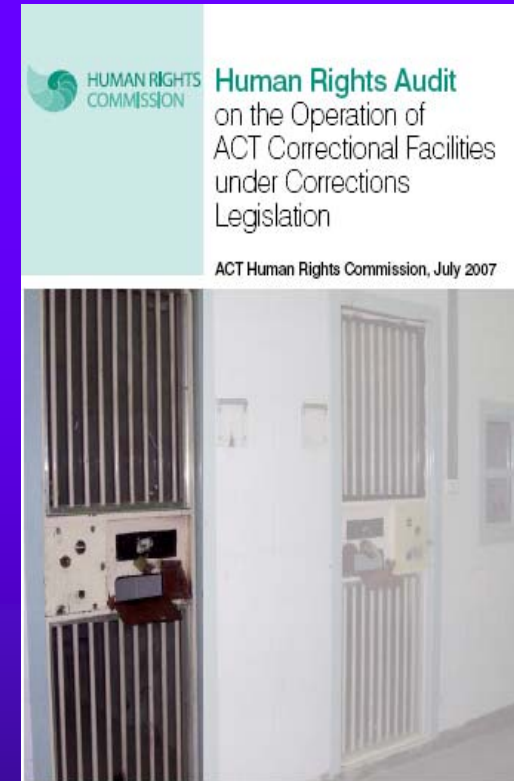
Internal audit

- ◆ Accommodation
- ◆ Change to strip search procedure
 - Half/half
- ◆ Procedure compliance



Human Rights Audit of ACT Correctional Facilities

- ◆ Recommendations
- ◆ Response
- ◆ Future considerations impacting on design/operation of AMC



The Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)



- ◆ “People are sent to prison as punishment not for punishment”.

(Sir Alexander Patterson, 1951)



The Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)

- ◆ Expected to operate mid 2008
- ◆ First prison in Australia to be built and operated around a human rights framework
- ◆ Holds 300 prisoners with:
 - 145 beds for sentenced prisoners
 - 110 beds for remandees in separate remand facilities; and
 - Up to 15 low-security prisoners in a Transitional Release Centre



AMC Philosophy

- ◆ Healthy Prison Concept
 - Everyone is and feels safe;
 - Everyone is treated with respect as a fellow human being;
 - Everyone is encouraged to improve him or herself and is given the opportunity to do so through the provision of purposeful activity; and
 - Everyone is enabled to maintain contact with their families and is prepared for release.

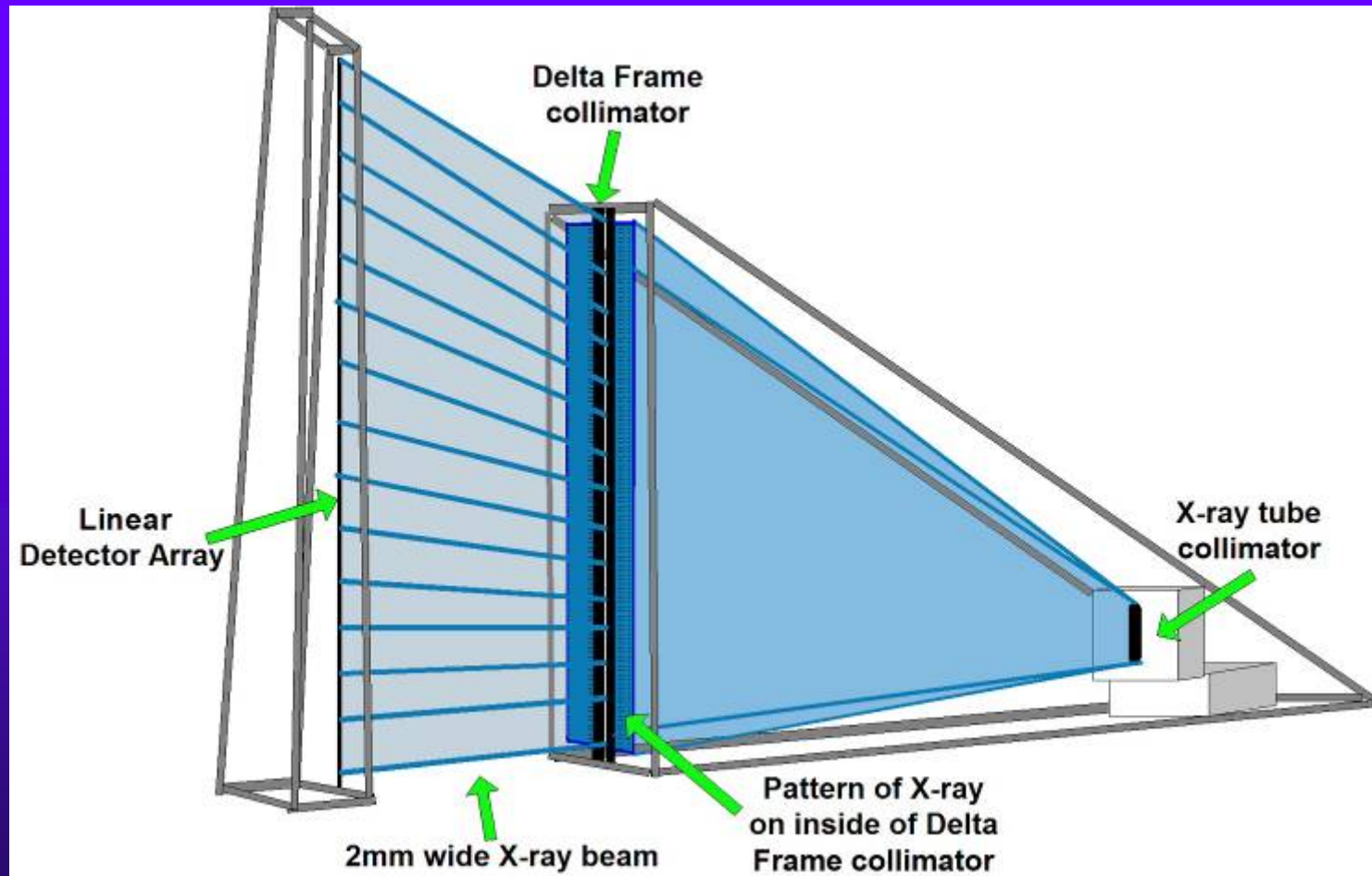


AMC & Human Rights

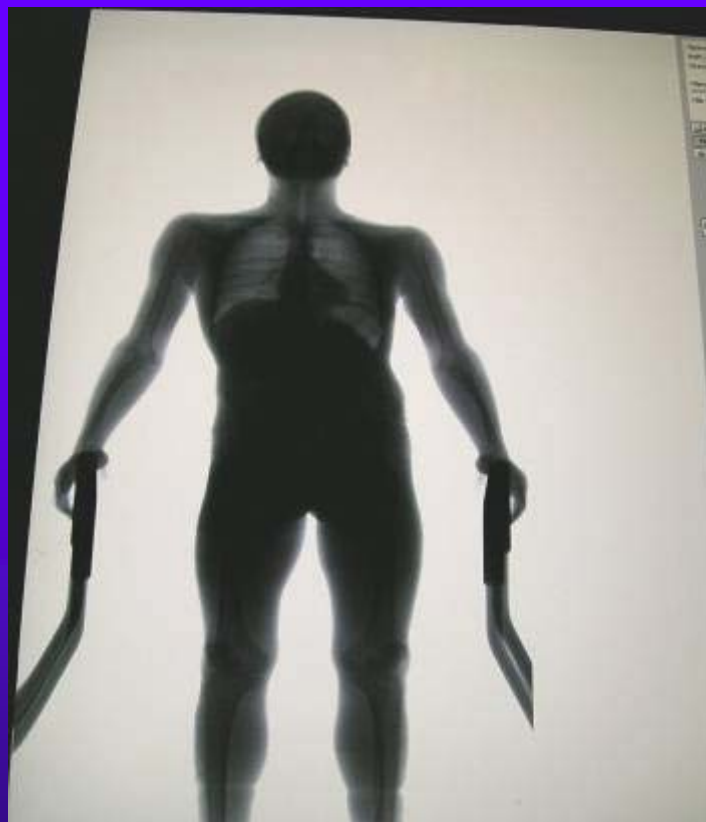
- ◆ Design of accommodation
- ◆ Provision for children to stay with their mother
- ◆ Evening visiting hours
- ◆ Greater range of rehabilitation programs and recreational opportunities
- ◆ Sophisticated technology to reduce needs for strip searching and monitoring



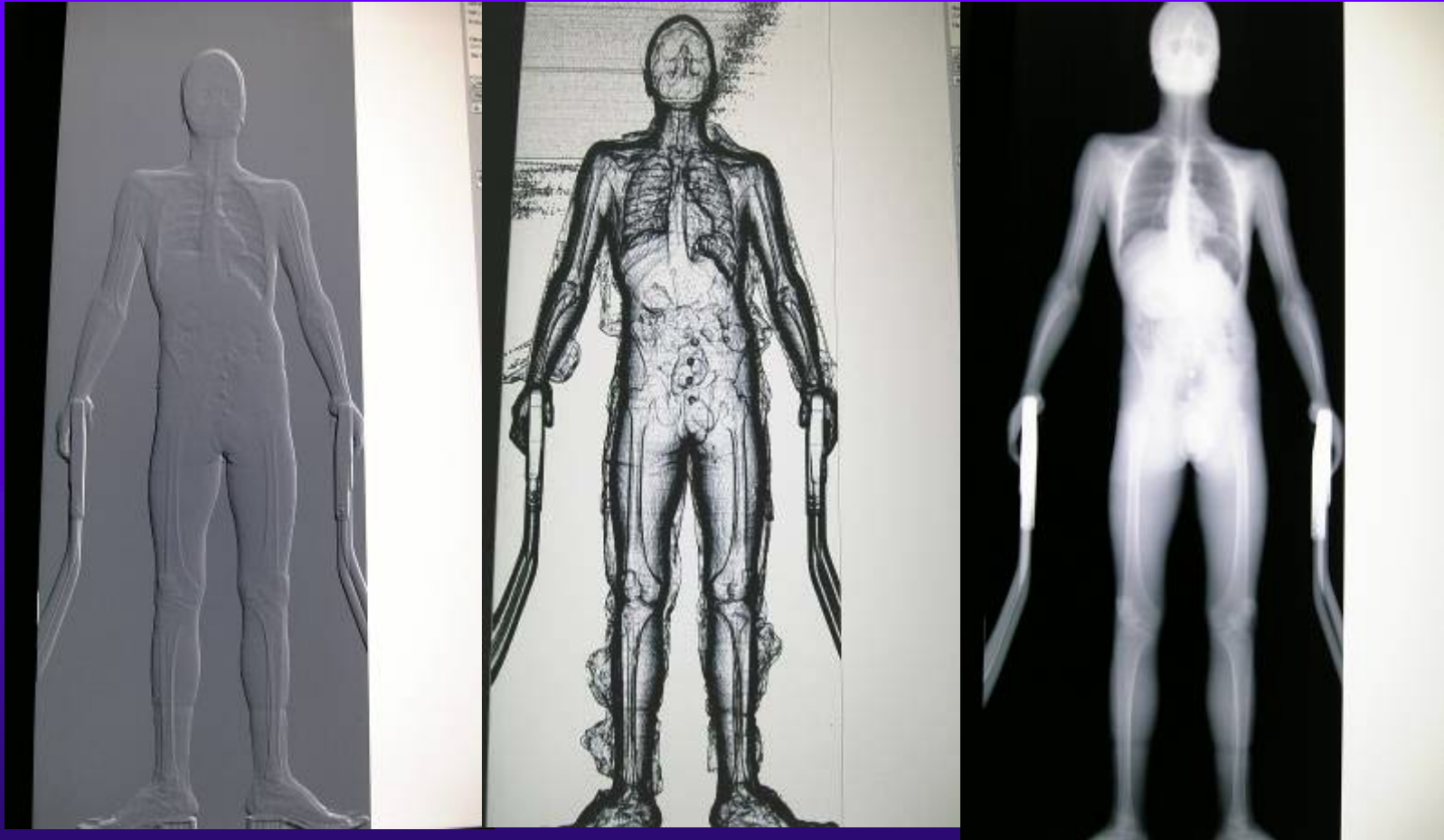
SOTER RS X-Ray Bodyscanner



Trial of SOTER in ACT



Trial of SOTER in ACT (cont)





Links

- ◆ ACT Human Rights Office
 - www.hro.act.gov.au
- ◆ Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)
 - www.cs.act.gov.au/amc
- ◆ JACS Human Rights Act website
 - <http://www.jcs.act.gov.au/HumanRightsAct/indexbor.html>