

Corrections Management (Millimeter Wave Body Scanner Interim) Policy 2026

Notifiable instrument NI2026—479

made under the

Corrections Management Act 2007, s14 (Corrections policies and operating procedures).

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Corrections Management (Millimeter Wave Body Scanner Interim) Policy 2026*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Policy

I make this policy to facilitate the effective and efficient management of corrections services.

James Taylor-Dayus
A/g Commissioner
ACT Corrective Services

23 October 2026

Millimeter Wave Body Scanner

Interim Policy



ACT
Government

Justice and Community Safety

Contents

1	Why body scanning matters	4
2	What this policy applies to	4
3	How the scanner is used.....	4
3.1	The scanner is used to detect anomalies on people entering the AMC	4
3.2	All visitors must be scanned, and staff and others may be scanned if directed	4
3.3	Exemptions from scanning can be sought on medical grounds	5
3.4	Officers must be trained and must follow the prescribed process	5
3.5	All alarms must be resolved by alternative methods before entry is allowed.....	6
3.6	Searches must be respectful and mindful of human rights.....	6
3.7	If a person refuses a scan give them information and report if they still refuse	7
3.8	Scanner faults and outages must be notified and recorded.....	7
	Document information	8
	Compliance information	9

1 Why body scanning matters

The Millimeter Wave Body Scanner (the scanner) supports the safety, security and good order of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

It does this by detecting contraband concealed on a person's body or within clothing (scanning).

The scanner is a form of security screening that is less intrusive than physical searching for visitors, staff, contractors and other authorised persons.

The scanner uses non-ionising radio wave technology. It identifies anomalies on the body without producing anatomical images.

It is safe for all persons to undergo a scan, including pregnant women and persons with implanted medical devices such as pacemakers.

2 What this policy applies to

This policy applies to the use of the Millimeter Wave Body Scanner during entry to the AMC.

3 How the scanner is used

3.1 The scanner is used to detect anomalies on people entering the AMC

The scanner is used to detect anomalies that may indicate the presence of concealed items.

The scanner will detect anomalies but cannot determine what they are.

All anomalies must be assessed before a person proceeds beyond the entry screening point.

The scanner may be used to screen:

- approved detainee visitors
- staff members
- contractors and service providers
- volunteers
- children and young people accompanying approved visitors
- pregnant women
- persons with implanted medical devices, including pacemakers and defibrillators
- any other person directed to undergo screening as a condition of entry.

3.2 All visitors must be scanned, and staff and others may be scanned if directed

All detainee visitors entering the AMC must undergo scanning unless an approved exemption exists.

Staff may be directed to undergo scanning where:

- a Correctional Drug Detection Dog (K9) provides a positive indication
- intelligence or operational information identifies a security risk
- directed by the Senior Director Operations, Area Manager or Duty Manager
- selected under an approved random screening process
- required during a targeted security operation.

Contractors, volunteers and other authorised persons may be required to undergo scanning as a condition of entry to the AMC.

Children accompanying approved visitors may be subject to scanning.

Where scanning cannot be effectively conducted due to age, height, or practical limitations, alternative screening methods, such as using a hand-held metal detector or canine screening may be used.

Things to consider

- *If scanning cannot be conducted, what form of screening is most appropriate?*
- *What is the least intrusive method that will still address security needs?*

3.3 Exemptions from scanning can be sought on medical grounds

A person seeking exemption from the body scanner on medical grounds must:

- obtain a valid medical certificate
- submit the medical certificate to AMCExecSupport@act.gov.au.
- receive written approval from the Senior Director Operations or delegate before attending the AMC.

Persons exempt from scanning must still undergo alternative screening methods.

Things to consider

- *Does the person seeking exemption understand how the scanner works?*
- *Do they know they will still have to go through other forms of screening?*

3.4 Officers must be trained and must follow the prescribed process

Officers operating the scanner must be trained and authorised in its operation.

The scanner operator is not required to be the same gender as the person being scanned.

Prior to screening, the officer must direct the person to:

- empty all pockets
- remove jackets, coats and any other outer garments
- remove items such as phones, wallets, keys, coins and watches
- follow all instructions provided by the scanner operator.

The officer operating the scanner must ask the person who is about to be scanned:

"I will start the scan in a moment. Before I start, do you have anything else on you that you think might be detected by the scanner?"

If the person volunteers an item the officer can inspect it or allow the person to put it in a locker.

The officer must then:

- direct the person to enter the scanner and adopt the required position
- initiate the scan and review the result

Where no anomaly is identified, the person may proceed through the entry process.

Where the scanner identifies an anomaly, the officer must:

- give the person an opportunity to remove the item for inspection
- advise the person that additional screening is required
- identify the area on their person indicated by the scanner
- ask whether the person is carrying or wearing an item that may explain the alarm
- request removal of the item where appropriate
- conduct a further scan if required.

Where the person refuses to present the item for inspection, the Area Manager may refuse entry or direct a non-contact visit.

Things to consider

- *Are any reasonable adjustments needed if someone appears not to understand your instructions? For example, possible language or cultural barriers.*

3.5 All alarms must be resolved by alternative methods before entry is allowed

Where an alarm remains following a rescan, or a person is exempt from scanning, officers must use other methods.

These can include:

- visual inspection
- examination of personal property
- targeted questioning
- hand-held metal detector/walkthrough screening
- canine screening
- frisk search, if it is supported on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to do so.

The use of strip searches or the use of force to conduct a search is not permitted.

A person must not proceed beyond the screening point until:

- the officer is satisfied with the results of the methods used, or
- an Area Manager or Duty Manager determines that the person may proceed.

Things to consider

- *What is the least intrusive method that can address any security concerns?*
- *If unsure of your grounds for a frisk search, have you checked with a Manager?*

3.6 Searches must be respectful and mindful of human rights

Officers must not attempt to remove any items from a person.

If an anomaly is detected by any means, the person may be asked to remove it themselves.

If a person indicates discomfort with removing anything from their person (eg clothing, jewellery) they must be given the opportunity to do so in a private area with an officer of the same gender observing.

If a screening indicates an anomaly in a religious head covering, the person may be asked to remove it.

The person must be given time, privacy and access to a mirror to reapply their covering.

Things to consider

- *Are you being attentive to any signs of discomfort or embarrassment?*
- *Be aware of other people who might be observing, and how you represent ACTCS.*
- *Recognise that religious head coverings may have significant spiritual or cultural importance.*

3.7 If a person refuses a scan give them information and report if they still refuse

If a person refuses to undergo scanning, officers must provide a simple explanation of how the scanner operates.

If the person raises concerns regarding safety or a medical condition, officers must provide information regarding the exemption process.

Visitors who refuse scanning may be denied entry to the AMC by the Area Manager.

Contractors, volunteers and other authorised persons who refuse required scanning may be denied entry and referred to the relevant Contract Manager or sponsoring business unit.

If a staff member refuses to be scanned, they must be referred immediately to the Duty Manager.

For record keeping, officers must submit an Incident Report where a refusal to undergo screening occurs.

An individual can appeal if they disagree with being refused entry to the AMC by submitting a complaint to: ACTCSCommissionersOffice@act.gov.au.

Things to consider

- *Have you given sufficient information for a person to make an informed decision regarding scanning, and available alternatives or exemptions?*
- *Inform individuals of their right to make a complaint if they disagree with a refusal of entry.*

3.8 Scanner faults and outages must be notified and recorded

Where the scanner is unavailable due to maintenance, malfunction or other operational issues, officers must notify the Area Manager and Security Systems.

All faults, outages and maintenance activities must be recorded.

Approved alternative screening methods must be implemented until the fault is resolved.

Document information

Document title:	<i>Corrections Management (Millimeter Wave Body Scanner Interim) Policy</i>
Document owner/approver:	Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services
Approval:	 James Taylor-Dayus A/g Commissioner ACT Corrective Services 23 October 2026
Date effective:	The day after the notification date
Review date:	Five (5) years after the notification date
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Commissioner, Custodial Operations

Version Control			
Version no.	Date	Description	Author
V1	October 2026		C Botha

Compliance information

Legislation

The table below identifies key legislative considerations related to this document.

It is not intended to be exhaustive.

Act / section	Relevance
Corrections Management Act 2007, Part 9.4.	Outlines searches within ACT correctional centres, including the powers of correctional officers to perform searches on detainees and visitors.

Human Rights

The table below identifies key human rights considerations related to this document.

It is not intended to be exhaustive.

Section of Human Rights Act	Relevance
S14	The right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief.
S19	States that anyone deprived of liberty must be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.
S27	Recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as holding distinct cultural rights which must not be denied. This includes maintaining kinship ties.

Delegations

Section	Function	Delegation
14(1)	May make corrections to policies and operating procedures, consistent with this Act, to facilitate the effective and efficient management of correctional services	Commissioner (E00232), Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations (E1055), Assistant Commissioner Offender Reintegration (E01145), Assistant Commissioner Community Corrections (E00704), Executive Branch Manager, Corporate (E00850), Executive Branch Manager Operational Support (E01102).
111(1)	May, at any time, direct a corrections officer to conduct a scanning search, frisk search or ordinary search of a detainee, another corrections officer or anyone else working at or visiting a correctional centre	Commissioner (E00232), Assistant Commissioner Custodial Operations (E1055), Senior Director Court Operations and Improvement Senior Director (P59231), Senior Director Detainee Services (P49416), Senior Director Operations (P35165), Senior Director Accommodation (P39808), Director Court Transport Unit (P46955) CO4, CO3, CO2, CO1.