

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32<sup>nd</sup> Session  
Universal Periodic Review of New Zealand  
Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the New Zealand delegation to this UPR session. Australia commends the Government of New Zealand's strong commitment to the promotion of human rights.

Australia acknowledges New Zealand's implementation of the recommendations from the 2014 Universal Periodic Review session, including: ongoing partnerships with Maori peoples through the Treaty of Waitangi, promoting equality and non-discrimination in the criminal justice system, and improving education outcomes for Maori and Pacific islanders.

Building on this progress, Australia acknowledges New Zealand's commitment to take further concrete steps to address the over-representation of Maori in the criminal justice system, including in detention.

We commend the New Zealand Government's support of women in leadership. Noting the high rates of domestic violence in New Zealand, **Australia recommends that New Zealand review and strengthen its efforts to respond to and prevent domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence.**

**Australia also recommends that New Zealand initiate multi-sector, systems-level actions to address barriers to women and girls' access to equitable sexual and reproductive health outcomes.**

Australia commends New Zealand for its commitment to end discrimination based on sexual-orientation and gender identity. **Australia recommends New Zealand amend the *Human Rights Act 1993* to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and intersex status.**

Finally, recognising the inequalities that disproportionately affect Maori and other minority groups, **Australia commends New Zealand's continued its efforts to address child poverty and wellbeing, as well as the disparities in education, employment, income and health.**