

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the effects of Foreign Debt and Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

28 February 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur and Independent Expert for their presentations.

It is an Australian priority to ensure that all Australians have an adequate standard of living. Access to affordable and secure housing is critical for improving employment, education and health outcomes for Australians.

We note the Special Rapporteur's checklist to facilitate the design, monitoring, financing and implementation of human rights-based housing strategies. We agree with the Special Rapporteur's views that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to housing.

In the 2017-2018 Budget, the Australian Government committed to a new comprehensive and targeted housing affordability plan, designed to improve housing outcomes for Australians.

Under a new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement, the Australian Government will provide around A\$1.5 billion each year to state and territory governments on the condition that they each have publicly available housing and homelessness strategies that relate their policies to key structural factors and priority cohorts. The Australian Government is also establishing a bond aggregator and a National Housing Infrastructure Facility to encourage greater private and institutional investment in affordable housing.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur on housing's view that persons with disabilities are more vulnerable to homelessness. We would be interested to learn about what examples the Special Rapporteur would highlight as best practice for enabling appropriate accommodation or housing for people with disabilities and what makes this effective?

We welcome the opportunity to engage with the Special Rapporteur and look forward to her visit to Australia.

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