

Universal Periodic Review – 23rd Session
Statement by Ireland on the review of Australia
9 November 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Australia and thanks it for its presentation.

We welcome positive steps taken since the first review, including enactment of legislation on discrimination against LGBTI persons. We encourage Australia to take steps towards equal recognition of same-sex marriage.

We are concerned that the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants had to postpone indefinitely his official visit to Australia, due to protection concerns and access to off-shore detention centres. The continued detention of children in these centres is of particular concern.

Ireland strongly **recommends** that Australia cooperates fully with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and ensure everyone enjoys the right to unhindered access to and communication with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms, including by preventing and ensuring adequate protection against reprisals.

We are concerned about the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in particular the number of indigenous young people, in detention. Ireland **recommends** that Australia continues to work, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to reduce indigenous incarceration rates.