



# AUSTRALIA

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## Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 19th Session

### Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Albania

#### Statement by Australia

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The Government of Australia commends the Republic of Albania on the progress made on human rights since its last review in 2009 and for the peaceful and orderly transition of power following democratically-held elections in 2013. Australia encourages Albania to build on the success of these elections and continue its movement towards democratic norms and institutions, and European integration.

Australia acknowledges Albania's efforts to address corruption and welcomes the 2012 constitutional amendments which restrict the general immunity of high-level officials and judges. **Australia recommends that Albania intensify efforts to enhance the independence, efficiency and accountability of the judiciary.**

Australia notes with concern reports of the continuing prevalence of domestic and gender-based violence in Albania and the low level of investigations and convictions. **Australia recommends that Albania enhance support services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence; and take measures to raise awareness among law enforcement officials, lawyers and judges of the serious nature of domestic and gender-based violence.**

Australia recognises Albania's efforts to date to address the continuing discrimination and societal disadvantage experienced by the Roma and Egyptian communities. **Australia recommends that Albania strengthen efforts to improve access to housing, health services, education and employment for both the Roma and Egyptian communities.**

Speaker: Ms Lauren Stasinowsky