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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 19th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Costa Rica

Statement by Australia

Australia recognises the continued efforts of Costa Rica to improve its framework for the advancement of human rights.

Australia welcomes steps taken by Costa Rica to address ongoing high levels of domestic violence against women and children, including through the efforts of the public prosecutor, police and ombudsman. **Australia recommends Costa Rica strengthen its efforts to address the serious and ongoing problem of domestic violence.**

Australia welcomes independent monitoring of prison conditions in Costa Rica. However overcrowding, inadequate sanitation, difficulties accessing medical care and violence among prisoners are ongoing. **Australia recommends Costa Rica address overcrowding and harsh conditions in prisons.**

Australia remains concerned about child abuse in Costa Rica, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children. **Australia recommends Costa Rica intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of child sexual abuse and provide specialised assistance to victims.**

Australia remains concerned about continuing reports of forced labour and women and girls being subjected to domestic servitude. **Australia recommends Costa Rica intensify efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking including forced labour.**

Speaker: Ms Caitlin McCaffrie