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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 19th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Portugal

Statement by Australia

Australia commends Portugal on the progress made on human rights since its last review including the establishment of the Portuguese National Human Rights Committee in 2010.

Australia welcomes the priority given to prevention and investigation of domestic violence and notes the adoption of National Plans Against Domestic/Gender-Based Violence (2011-2013 and 2014-2017). Australia notes with concern reports of increased domestic violence against elderly people. **Australia recommends that Portugal continue to increase community awareness of domestic violence and give particular attention to the needs of families caring for older persons.**

Australia notes with concern reports of ill-treatment of persons detained by police and in prison custody. **Australia recommends that Portugal ensure that reports of the use of excessive force or ill-treatment by law enforcement officials are fully investigated.**

Australia acknowledges Portugal's efforts to address discrimination and societal disadvantage experienced by Roma communities, including adoption of a National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities (2013-2020). **Australia recommends that Portugal take further steps to improve access to housing, education and employment for Roma communities.**

Speaker: Mr Kevin Playford.