

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 22nd Session
Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the delegation from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and congratulates RMI, as a Small Island State, on its participation in the UPR process.

We congratulate RMI on a major legislative development since the last UPR, the enactment of RMI's *Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act 2011 (DVPPA)*. We recognise significant efforts are still required to address the continuing challenges of domestic violence in RMI. **Australia recommends that RMI effectively implement the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act through advocacy and awareness-raising amongst targeted audiences.**

We also commend RMI's active participation in the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the implications of human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. Australia is pleased to be assisting RMI in implementing the Special Rapporteur's recommendation to improve water sanitation and waste management, including through the Ebeye Water Supply and Sanitation Project.

Australia is encouraged by RMI's development of a national Disability Inclusive Development Policy and the *Nitijela's* approval for the Government's accession to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). **Australia recommends that RMI give appropriate resourcing to implement its Disability Inclusive Development Policy.**

Australia is pleased to be working in partnership with RMI to support the rights of every individual in RMI to contribute to and benefit from RMI's development.