



Human Rights Council
23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Australia

Delivered by DPR Carl Reaich

9 November 2015

Mr President,

New Zealand welcomes the delegation from Australia, and notes encouraging developments in Australia since its last UPR. New Zealand **commends**, for example, Australia's amendment of the *Sex Discrimination Act* to provide protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

However, we note that further work is needed in the area of indigenous and minority rights. New Zealand **recommends** that Australia continue to address inequalities affecting human rights in the areas of health, education, employment and income that disproportionately affect indigenous peoples and other minority groups.

While we commend Australia's signature of the the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, New Zealand **recommends** that Australia ratify OPCAT and implement a National Preventative Mechanism.

Finally, New Zealand **recommends** that Australia introduce measures to address issues related to the treatment of persons with disabilities, including considering the implementation of recommendations from both the Australian Law Reform Commission's report on Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws, and the Senate inquiry into high levels of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutional and residential settings.

We wish the delegation a successful review.

Thank you Mr President.