



# AUSTRALIA

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## Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24th Session

### Universal Periodic Review of Belgium

#### Statement by Australia

Australia would like to acknowledge and commend Belgium for its active and constructive role in multilateral human rights discussions.

Australia welcomes Belgium's efforts to set up an overarching Human Rights Institute. Australia reiterates its recommendation from the first cycle, and **recommends Belgium establish, as a matter of priority, a National Human Rights Institution which is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.**

**Australia recommends that Belgium consider recruiting independent experts to its Standing Committee for Police Monitoring from outside the police, in line with the 2014 recommendations of the Committee Against Torture.**

Australia notes that prison conditions remain a major concern in Belgium. **Australia recommends Belgium continue to improve conditions in Belgium's prisons, including in relation to overcrowding and specific facilities for offenders with mental health disorders.**

Australia acknowledges Belgium's efforts to address concerns raised by the Belgian Centre for Equal Opportunities on implementation of Belgium's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. **Australia recommends Belgium improve access to public services for people with a disability, particularly education and postal services.**