**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24rd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Denmark**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia acknowledges the Kingdom of Denmark’s long-standing commitment to the protection and advancement of human rights, with well-established human rights architecture.

We welcome Denmark’s continued constructive engagement in the UPR process.

Australia commends Denmark’s accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as recommended by Australia during the first cycle. Australia also welcomes Denmark’s increased protections for children as persons vulnerable to human trafficking, with the enactment of the Danish Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and the establishment of the National Children’s Office.

We welcome initiatives implemented to address gender inequalities and violence against women and children in Denmark. Australia notes sexual violence remains an issue for Denmark, in particular, the rate of convictions in comparison to the number of reported cases of sexual violence. **Australia recommends Denmark continue to increase gender equality and protections for women and girls who encounter violence including enhanced implementation of Denmark’s existing legal and policy frameworks.**

Australia notes reports of high levels of discrimination against indigenous people, immigrants of non-western background and minority groups. **Australia recommends Denmark to counter discrimination and promote a more inclusive society.**