



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Solomon Islands

Statement by Australia

Australia appreciates Solomon Islands' engagement in this forum and commends Solomon Island's efforts since the last UPR in 2011, including electoral reforms ensuring voter confidence and participation in the 2014 election.

Australia also commends Solomon Islands on its steps to address gender inequality and family and gender-based violence, including the 2015 launch of a National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls, and 2014 passage of the Family Protection Act. Australia welcomes outreach efforts of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, supported by the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, which have increased reporting of sexual and gender-based violence to the police.

Australia remains concerned Solomon Islands is a source and destination country for people trafficking. **Australia recommends Solomon Islands implement measures to punish traffickers and prevent child prostitution and forced marriage.**

Australia recommends Solomon Islands progresses domestic child protection legislation and ratifies the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Australia recommends Solomon Islands establish an independent body to monitor and promote human rights including progress made on the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's recommendations with regard to abuses committed during the Tensions.

Recognising Solomon Islands' long-standing abolition of the death penalty, **Australia recommends Solomon Islands ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**