**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 25th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Greece**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia recognises Greece has taken a number of concrete steps to improve its human rights framework, including by reducing overcrowding in prisons and introducing stricter penalties for discrimination and incitement of violence. Australia welcomes Greece’s extension of civil partnership to same-sex couples and its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

Australia remains concerned by reports of gender discrimination in Greece, including in relation to employment and under family, property and inheritance laws. **Australia recommends Greece continue efforts towards gender equality, including ensuring effective review and control by domestic civil courts of inheritance and family matters determined by religious bodies for Muslim minority women in Thrace.**

Australia notes the persistence of hate-motivated crimes in Greece. **Australia recommends Greece ensure that all crimes committed with a discriminatory motive are fully and effectively investigated and prosecuted.**

Australia is concerned that Greece’s Roma children continue to display higher illiteracy and school drop-out rates. **Australia recommends Greece take steps to fully integrate Roma children in its education system, including by ending discrimination and segregation of Roma children in schools.**