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

**Universal Periodic Review of Ireland**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the delegation from Ireland and appreciates its constructive engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process.

We congratulate Ireland for its long-standing commitment to human rights, including through its Constitution, institutional and regulatory frameworks, and engagement with civil society.

Australia is pleased to note the establishment of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the launch of its first strategy statement for 2016 to 2018.

Australia also commends Ireland for holding a referendum on children’s rights with a view to incorporating those rights in the Irish Constitution, in line with the   
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Australia is pleased to note the progress being made to improve conditions in Irish prisons with the objective of bringing conditions into line with international standards. **Australia recommends Ireland implement the recommendations arising from the Office of the Inspector of Prisons’ review of the Irish Prison Service.**

We note Ireland’s commitment to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the publishing of a road map outlining the legislative changes that would enable Ireland to complete ratification by the end of 2016. **Australia recommends Ireland ratify promptly the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**