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

**Universal Periodic Review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the engagement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Universal Periodic Review process and commends its efforts to advance human rights since its first UPR in 2011, including the acceptance of a range of international human rights instruments and the opening of the new Belle Isle Correctional facility.

Australia remains concerned by the poor conditions at the old prison in Kingstown including violence, understaffing, uncontrolled weapons and drugs, and lack of adequate hygiene. **Australia recommends Saint Vincent and the Grenadines take the necessary steps to ensure the prison in Kingstown meets international minimum standards and adheres to the Mandela Rules**.

Australia notes that no executions have taken place in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in more than 20 years, establishing a moratorium on the death penalty in practice. **Australia recommends Saint Vincent and the Grenadines establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**.

**Australia recommends Saint Vincent and the Grenadines acts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as per the recommendations from its 2011 UPR appearance.**

Australia remains concerned that violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons have not been addressed appropriately. **Australia recommends Saint Vincent and the Grenadines enact legislation prohibiting discrimination against LGBTI persons, including removing laws criminalising consensual same sex activity**.