**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 26th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Iceland**

**Statement by Australia**

The Government of Australia commends Iceland for its ongoing commitment to the protection and advancement of human rights. In particular, Australia commends Iceland for the important progress it has made in progressing Australia's recommendations from the 2011 Universal Periodic Review

Australia acknowledges that the Icelandic Human Rights Centre has assumed the functions of a national human rights institution (NHRI). However, the Centre has no ongoing funding or statutory standing.   **Australia recommends Iceland establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, drawing on the experience of the Icelandic Centre for Human Rights.**

We note the Icelandic constitution guarantees equality before the law and enjoyment of human rights for all, including for LGBTI persons.  However, Iceland doesn't have comprehensive legislation in place that protects the rights of intersex people in terms of equality and non-discrimination.  We call on Iceland to strengthen discrimination protections for LGBTI persons, and **Australia recommends Iceland enact legislation that includes protection from discrimination on the basis of intersex status.**

Australia commends Iceland for the important work being done by the Ministry of Welfare on anti-discrimination legislation but calls on Iceland to strengthen discrimination protections for elderly persons, many of whom continue to suffer the effects of Iceland’s recession. **Australia recommends Iceland enact legislation that prohibits age based discrimination.**