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

**Universal Periodic Review of Moldova**

**Statement by Australia**

The Government of Australia commends the delegation from Moldova and appreciates its constructive engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process.

Australia acknowledges Moldova’s positive human rights engagement. Australia commends Moldova for expanding inclusive and community-based services, amending legislation to provide voting rights for all persons with disabilities, and offering training to normalise inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Australia welcomes the introduction of strong anti-corruption laws. Increased monitoring of prisons, pre-trial detention facilities and psychiatric facilities is also positive. **Australia recommends Moldova continue efforts to improve conditions in prisons and pre-trial facilities**.

Australia commends the government-supported education efforts to increase awareness of domestic violence, and notes that this has led to improvement in how police officers handle cases and in the frequency of issuing protection orders. **Australia recommends continued public awareness campaigns on domestic violence and the introduction of specific rape prevention programs.**

Australia remains concerned that Roma people still face discrimination, harassment and violence. **Australia recommends Moldova promote greater public appreciation for the importance of according equal rights for the Roma.**

We note the progress on addressing issues of discrimination facing LGBTI communities but we are concerned that these gains may be fragile. **Australia recommends Moldova strengthen support for LGBTI rights and address the barriers to full participation in daily life.**