**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 27th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Netherlands**

**Statement by Australia**

We congratulate the Netherlands on its long-standing commitment to human rights, including through its Constitution, its domestic legislation and its foreign policy.

Australia is pleased to note the Dutch National Human Rights Institution (NIHR) achieved “A” status in 2014, confirming its full compliance with the Paris Principles, and the presence of various other institutions empowered to handle human rights issues.

We commend the Netherlands for the publication of its National Action Plan on Human Rights in 2013, noting that its implementation is ongoing. Australia encourages the Netherlands to fully implement the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

Australia notes a disparity in human rights provisions between the European Netherlands and the Caribbean Netherlands. **Australia recommends the Netherlands act to eliminate differences in human rights between the European and Caribbean Netherlands.**

Australia welcomes the Netherlands’ commitment to combat labour market discrimination affecting migrants, women, persons with disabilities and older persons. We are pleased to note the progress made to increase women’s participation in the labour market. **Australia recommends the Netherlands continue to implement the measures outlined in its 2014 Action Plan against labour market discrimination.**

We commend the Netherlands’ strong reputation on LGBT+ rights and note the Government is working on the advancement of intersex rights. **Australia recommends the Netherlands implement measures to protect intersex persons from discrimination.**