**UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review – 47th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Costa Rica**

**11 November 2024**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President].

Australia welcomes Costa Rica’s response to irregular migration through the provision of emergency healthcare and schooling to migrants. Australia also welcomes Costa Rica’s efforts to advance the rights of LGBTQIA+ people, including the legalisation of same-sex marriage and the criminalisation of hate crimes.

We note Costa Rica’s downgrade in the World Press Freedom Index.

Australia recommends **Costa Rica:**

1. **Strengthen access to, and education about, sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls.**
2. **Finalise legislation to further strengthen the recognition and protection of LGBTQIA+ people.**
3. **Strengthen efforts to safeguard freedom of the press through the implementation of additional protections for journalists and human rights defenders.**

[113 words**]**