**Universal Periodic Review 37 – Australia**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands** **– 25 January 2021**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the delegation of Australia for the presentation of its national report.

The Netherlands commends the Australian Government for prioritising consideration of the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security on the impact of the exercise of law enforcement and intelligence powers on the freedom of the press. The Netherlands notes that striking the appropriate balance between these factors is of critical importance to ensure Freedom of the Press.

Building on the ‘Closing the Gap’ initiative, further measures would be welcomed to ensure full and consistent protection of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in domestic laws and policies.

The Netherlands **recommends** Australia:

1. To repeal laws criminalising public interest reporting and strengthen journalist warrant obligations.
2. To incorporate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into domestic law, establish an independent body to oversee its implementation in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and include UNDRIP in the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act.

The Netherlands wishes Australia success with the follow-up of all recommendations it receives during this third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Madame President.