**UPR37**

**Australia**

*20 January 2021*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Australia, our strong partner within and outside the Human Rights Council.

In response to our previous recommendations, we appreciate that Australia ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) in 2017 and adopted a new Action Plan (of the National Plan) to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children in 2019. We wish Australia all the success in the effective implementation of these instruments.

Building upon our other recommendations, we **recommend** to further strengthen efforts aimed at full, effective and meaningful participation in political and public life for all persons, especially for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Indigenous Australians). This recommendation also encompasses the need to amend electoral legislation depriving the right to vote of citizens serving a prison sentence.

We **recommend** to promote non-judicial measures for children accused of criminal offences and to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Finally, we **recommend** to take further steps to reduce violence against women and girls.

Thank you.