**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 38th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Seychelles**

**Statement by Australia**

**10 May 2021**

Australia commends Seychelles for its first democratic change of Government. We welcome the establishment in 2019 of an independent Human Rights Commission and a Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission; and the passage of a domestic violence act in 2020. We also commend Seychelles for repealing laws criminalising consensual same-sex relations between adults.

Australia recommends that **Seychelles:**

1. **Continue efforts to address domestic violence by fully enforcing laws to address violence against women and increasing coordination with NGOs and private sector institutions offering support to survivors of domestic violence.**
2. **Further protect the rights of children by amending laws to protect children from sexual exploitation.**
3. **Enact laws prohibiting hate crimes committed against persons on the basis of sexuality, gender, religion and ethnicity.**