**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 41st Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Finland**

**Statement by Australia**

**Wednesday 9 November 2022**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes Finland’s long-standing and strong commitment to human rights. Australia welcomes Finland’s actions to establish a National Action Plan to address domestic and family violence. Australia also welcomes Finland’s recent amendment to the criminal code to strengthen protections against sexual crimes.

Australia recommends that Finland:

1. **Ensure the right to self-determination is protected for the Sami, including possible amendments to the Act of the Sami Parliament.**
2. **Harmonise their Action Plan for Combatting Violence against Women and their Action Plan for implementation of the Istanbul Convention.**
3. **Strengthen the protection of human rights by ensuring cohesion and closer cooperation between relevant agencies and bodies.**
4. **Reform legislation to remove the requirement of infertility or sterilization as a condition for the legal recognition of gender reassignment.**

**[129 Words]**