**Universal Periodic Review Working Group- 29th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Israel**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Israel for its engagement with the Human Rights Council (HRC) and notes, and shares, Israel’s concern that it is singled out quite inappropriately in Item 7 of the Council’s proceedings.

Australia welcomes Israel’s progress in achieving equal rights for people with disabilities and **urges Israel to implement fully the ‘Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill’.**

Australia remains concerned at restrictions on freedom of movement in the Palestinian Territories. **We recommend Israel take steps to ensure constraints on freedom of movement do not restrict people’s basic rights, including access to health care and education.**

We welcome steps taken by Israel to improve conditions for Palestinian minors in detention. **We recommend Israel continue its efforts to reform its security and judicial practices with regard to Palestinians.**

We are concerned about the high number of demolitions of Palestinian-owned structures in the Palestinian Territories and Jerusalem, and the ongoing expansion of settlement activity that accelerated in 2017. We encourage Israel to refrain from unilateral measures that diminish the prospects of a negotiated two-state solution.