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

**Universal Periodic Review of Romania**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Romania on the progress made on anti-corruption and judicial reforms. This momentum cannot be lost. **Australia** **recommends Romania continue its anti-corruption efforts by fully implementing its *National Anti-Corruption Strategy*, and entrenching judicial independence**.

We acknowledge that Romania has reached the lowest gender pay gap in the European Union. Australia encourages Romania to continue its worthy efforts towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. **With this in mind, Australia recommends Romania implement, and ensure equal access to, mandatory gender equality and age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education within the formal education system.**

Australia is concerned by reports of discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDs in Romania, and notes that improved coordination between government and civil society may help to prevent the spread of HIV. **Australia** **recommends Romania introduce a national HIV prevention strategy and work with civil society for its implementation**.

Australia commends Romania on its efforts to combat discrimination and protect vulnerable groups, particularly the LGTBI people, though the National Council for Combating Discrimination’s (NCCD) national strategy on equality and non-discrimination. **Australia recommends Romania continue efforts to combat discrimination and protect vulnerable groups, particularly LGBTI people and take steps to fully implement, monitor and evaluate the national strategy on equality and non-discrimination.**