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

**Universal Periodic Review of United Arab Emirates**

 **Statement by Australia**

Australia commends the continued commitment by the UAE to promoting the rights of women and children, as reflected in the establishment of the UAE Gender Balance Council. We commend the leadership shown on religious tolerance, including appointing a Minister for Tolerance, a National Tolerance Program and establishing a Council of Tolerance.

Australia welcomes the measures taken by the UAE to improve protections for migrant workers, including educational campaigns to raise awareness of their rights and **recommends that the UAE continue to improve conditions for migrant workers through the implementation of recent labour reforms.**

Australia is concerned that human rights defenders have been arrested and held without charge in the UAE and **recommends that the UAE takes steps to ensure that all detainees have access to a fair and transparent trial**. **Australia also recommends that the UAE accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**

**Australia recommends that the UAE establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards complete abolition of this practice.**