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**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
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## **Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Australia\***

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a summary of 40 stakeholders' submissions<sup>2</sup> for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

#### **II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles**

2. The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) recommended that Australia ratify the Optional Protocols to the ICESCR and the CRC on a communications procedure and remove reservations and interpretive declarations to human rights treaties.<sup>3</sup>

3. AHRC recommended that Australia introduce a national Human Rights Act, and reform discrimination laws to ensure comprehensive protection and improved effectiveness.<sup>4</sup>

4. AHRC recommended that Australia ensure all Australian jurisdictions have national preventive mechanisms fully operating and funded without delay.<sup>5</sup>

5. AHRC recommended that Australia implement the GANHRI recommendations to strengthen the AHRC.<sup>6</sup>

6. AHRC recommended that Australia: implement the AHRC's National Anti-Racism Framework; and introduce laws prohibiting religious discrimination.<sup>7</sup>

7. AHRC recommended that Australia amend counter-terrorism and national security laws that unduly limited human rights, restricted freedom of expression and the right to privacy.<sup>8</sup>

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



8. AHRC recommended that Australia: abolish mandatory sentencing laws and expand the use of appropriate non-custodial measures; adequately fund Indigenous legal assistance programmes; and introduce independent monitoring and complaint mechanisms for police.<sup>9</sup>
9. AHRC stated that Australian governments had enacted laws that limited the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression with overly broad offences and disproportionately harsh penalties.<sup>10</sup>
10. AHRC recommended that Australia fully implement the recommendations of the McMillan modern slavery review, including a national compensation scheme for victim survivors.<sup>11</sup>
11. AHRC recommended that Australia ensure welfare payments provided an adequate standard of living and reform welfare support programmes for them not to be punitive.<sup>12</sup>
12. AHRC stated that Australia was facing a national housing crisis, with increased homelessness, inadequate public and affordable housing and rising cost of living.<sup>13</sup>
13. AHRC recommended that Australia reform the Native Title Act and heritage legislation to protect sacred sites, traditional lands and the cultural estate of First Nations Peoples.<sup>14</sup>
14. AHRC recommended that Australia take action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, including by urgently phasing out fossil fuels and fossil fuel subsidies.<sup>15</sup>
15. AHRC recommended that Australia legislate due diligence requirements for business and human rights.<sup>16</sup> Australia should implement the recommendations of the AHRC's reports on Human Rights and Technology and neurotechnology.<sup>17</sup>
16. AHRC noted that barriers to gender equality included lack of intersectional data, inadequate access to reproductive and consent education and the perpetuation of harmful gender attitudes, stereotypes and norms.<sup>18</sup>
17. AHRC recommended that Australia adequately fund evidence-based, community-led efforts to prevent gendered violence for all communities and identify the role of men in prevention. Efforts must promote cultural safety, adopt place-based approaches and respect First Nations women's self-determination.<sup>19</sup>
18. AHRC recommended that Australia address the undervaluing of work in feminized industries, such as care, particularly for racially marginalized women.<sup>20</sup>
19. AHRC recommended that Australia: urgently prioritize prevention and early intervention programmes to stop child maltreatment; and prioritize early intervention to prevent children entering child protection systems and fully implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.<sup>21</sup>
20. AHRC recommended that Australia: raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years in all Australian jurisdictions; and set national standards for the treatment of children in justice and detention systems.<sup>22</sup>
21. AHRC recommended that Australia: implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability; eliminate segregation of people with disability in education, housing and employment and abolish below-minimum disability wages and redirect resources to removing barriers that perpetuated segregation; repeal laws and cease practices that enabled the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, including indefinite detention and compulsory mental health treatment; and implement uniform legislation to prohibit involuntary sterilization and forced medical interventions of persons with disabilities.<sup>23</sup>
22. AHRC recommended that Australia: address barriers to employment for older persons; invest in updated national prevalence data on age discrimination in employment; and adopt a national strategy to promote age diverse workforces.<sup>24</sup>
23. AHRC recommended that Australia establish national truth-telling and treaty processes and ensure the participation of First Nations Peoples in decisions that affected them, and develop a national programme to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).<sup>25</sup>

24. AHRC recommended that Australia ensure comprehensive legislative protection for LGBTIQ+ individuals from discrimination, violence and vilification in all settings, including access to appropriate, affirming healthcare; protection from conversion and suppression practices.<sup>26</sup>

25. AHRC recommended that Australia: ensure immigration detention was strictly limited, time-bound and prohibited for children; provide pathways for the assessment of protection claims for all asylum seekers and refugees, including those previously rejected under the fast-track process; abolish temporary protection visas and ensure pathways to permanent protection and family reunification; ensure refugee status determination and assessment of refoulement risk, including during interceptions at sea; and provide viable, long-term protection for all asylum seekers and refugees subject to offshore processing.<sup>27</sup>

### **III. Information provided by other stakeholders**

#### **A. Scope of international obligations<sup>28</sup> and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

26. LCA recommended that Australia ratify the OP to CRC on a communications procedure.<sup>29</sup> JS6 recommended that Australia ratify the OP to the ICESCR.<sup>30</sup> JS4 recommended that Australia ratify the ICRMW.<sup>31</sup>

27. JS11 recommended that Australia withdraw its reservation to Article 37(c) of the CRC on separating child detainees from adults.<sup>32</sup>

28. ICAN and JS15 recommended that Australia ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.<sup>33</sup>

29. AI stated that despite supporting recommendations to establish national preventive mechanism bodies, Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria had yet to establish national preventive mechanism bodies.<sup>34</sup>

30. AI noted that in 2022, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture suspended its visit to Australia after being denied access to some places of detention in Queensland and New South Wales.<sup>35</sup>

31. JS1 recommended that Australia extend a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders.<sup>36</sup> AMA recommended that Australia invite a visit by the Special Rapporteurs on the right to education and on the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>37</sup>

#### **B. National human rights framework**

##### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

32. AI stated that while Australia had ratified seven core international human rights treaties, it had not incorporated them into domestic law through a Human Rights Act.<sup>38</sup> Several stakeholders recommended that Australia introduce a Human Rights Act<sup>39</sup> that would incorporate into domestic law all of Australia's obligations under international human rights law.<sup>40</sup>

##### **2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures**

33. JS9 recommended that the Australian Human Rights Commission exercise the powers available under the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 to provide clear public guidance on the lawful use of sex-based distinctions reserved exclusively for the female sex by birth.<sup>41</sup>

34. Unite for Rights recommended that Australia increase funding and long-term support for civil society organizations specifically dedicated to delivering human rights education, especially those working with populations in vulnerable situations and in remote areas.<sup>42</sup>

## C. Promotion and protection of human rights

### 1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

#### *Equality and non-discrimination*

35. ALHR recommended that Australia enact national legislation that explicitly prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression across all areas of public life, including education, healthcare, employment, sport, and access to services.<sup>43</sup> LCA also recommended that Australia pursue greater consistency and accessibility across its federal anti-discrimination law framework, to simplify existing provisions, reduce regulatory burdens and address key protection gaps.<sup>44</sup>

#### *Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture*

36. JS2 expressed concern about Australia's cooperation in counter-narcotic operations with law enforcement agencies in countries that retained the death penalty.<sup>45</sup> It recommended that Australia: revise the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 1987 to remove the Commonwealth Attorney-General's discretion to permit the sharing of information in cases where the death penalty might be imposed, based on the special circumstances of the case; and amend the Extradition Act 1988 to prohibit the extradition of a person to a state where they might face the imposition of the death penalty.<sup>46</sup>

37. JS6 stated that basic humane standards in adult prisons and watch houses were deteriorating. Overcrowding and staffing shortages were causing restrictions on essential services, more harmful lockdowns, confinement, and worsening conditions.<sup>47</sup>

#### *Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

38. LCA recommended that Australia review the necessity and proportionality of mandatory sentencing laws with a view to repealing all provisions imposing mandatory minimum periods of imprisonment.<sup>48</sup>

39. LSNT noted reports that since March 2025, prisoners were being kept in their cells for 24 hours per day without break or exercise. The use of "rolling lockdowns," due to staff shortages meaning that prisoners (including children) were being kept in cells for days without break.<sup>49</sup>

40. JS12 stated that Australia was underfunding and dismantling access to justice, entrenching inequality through an unjust legal assistance system, recommending that the Government immediately deliver fully funded, needs-based, community-led legal services across the country, ensuring free, independent access to justice for all.<sup>50</sup> LSNT also stated that ongoing funding of legal aid in the Northern Territory proportionate to the demand for representation was required to ensure access to justice, including the provision of bush court services in remote communities.<sup>51</sup>

#### *Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life*

41. JS10 recommended that Australia take measures to ensure equal treatment of people on the basis of religion and belief in public institutions and programmes by removing privileges afforded to religion.<sup>52</sup>

42. JS1 recommended that Australia take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, including by preventing legal and policy measures that unwarrantedly limited the right to freedom of association.<sup>53</sup>

43. JS1 recommended that Australia provide civil society members, human rights defenders and journalists with a safe, enabling and secure environment in which to carry out their work and ensure that human rights defenders were able to do so without undue hindrance, obstruction or harassment of themselves or their families.<sup>54</sup>

44. ADF International stated that the Online Safety Act's implementation had resulted in unjustified sweeping restrictions on freedom of expression online.<sup>55</sup> It recommended that

Australia: amend the Online Safety Act to incorporate narrow and precisely defined thresholds for imposing limitations on the exercise of freedom of expression in full compliance with the ICCPR; and review and amend the Regulatory Guidance to ensure that the activities of the eSafety Commissioner fully conform to Australia's international human rights obligations, including by preventing arbitrary, overbroad or discriminatory restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression.<sup>56</sup>

45. AI stated that the repression of the right to a peaceful assembly had intensified since the last review.<sup>57</sup> It noted that hundreds of peaceful climate protesters had been arrested and increasingly sentenced to imprisonment.<sup>58</sup> Universities had restricted campus protests supporting Palestinians, requiring permits, banning indoor protests, surveilling students, and using evidence in misconduct hearings.<sup>59</sup> MALS expressed grave concern about the introduction of a raft of repressive anti-protest legislation across Australia, documented cases of serious injuries caused by police using dangerous weapons against protesters, and obstruction of independent legal observers who monitored and reported on police conduct and human rights abuses at protests.<sup>60</sup> AI recommended that Australia: repeal laws that disproportionately restricted the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; and ensure that the use of less lethal weapons in the policing of public assemblies fully complied with international law and standards on the use of force.<sup>61</sup> LCA made similar recommendations.<sup>62</sup> JS1 also recommended that Australia drop charges against all activists and protesters, particularly climate and environmental activists and people protesting against the war on Gaza, for peacefully exercising their fundamental freedoms, and review their cases to prevent further harassment.<sup>63</sup>

46. JS6 stated that despite compulsory voting, Australia excluded thousands of people from voting, including prisoners and people with disabilities. Many eligible voters faced significant barriers. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People could not vote in the Voice referendum.<sup>64</sup> JS5 recommended that Australia take steps to uphold its commitments to ending racial discrimination and ensuring adequate representation and consultation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples.<sup>65</sup>

#### *Right to privacy*

47. JS1 recommended that Australia review all national security, surveillance and secrecy laws so they were not used against activists, journalists and whistleblowers and ensure those laws were consistent with international human rights law and standards.<sup>66</sup>

48. JS12 stated that the use of artificial intelligence and predictive technologies in policing amplified racial discrimination, entrenched injustice, and further shielded police from accountability. JS12 recommended that Australia ban the use of predictive policing, surveillance technologies, and AI in law enforcement, recognizing that technological policing was incompatible with human rights.<sup>67</sup>

#### *Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons*

49. ASA remained concerned that limited collaboration, coordination and cooperation across governments and agencies impeded efforts in prevention, identification and support for survivors of modern slavery.<sup>68</sup>

50. ASA urged Australia to establish a government-managed compensation scheme for survivors of slavery.<sup>69</sup>

#### *Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*

51. JS15 recommended that Australia ensure stronger national labour rights protections for migrant and seasonal workers, including guaranteed minimum wages, collective bargaining rights, and protection from deportation for speaking out.<sup>70</sup> JS6 also recommended that Australia improve industrial protections for independent contractors, particularly in the gig economy.<sup>71</sup>

*Right to social security*

52. JS15 stated that there was an increasing trend toward excluding migrants (including expanded and extended waiting periods for new permanent residents) from social security and basic social protections afforded to other residents and citizens, including access to social security and family payments, childcare subsidies, paid parental leave, subsidised education, etc.<sup>72</sup> JS6 recommended that Australia urgently increase social security payments and establish robust, locationally equitable anti-poverty measures.<sup>73</sup>

*Right to an adequate standard of living*

53. LCA stated that Australia was facing an acute shortage of adequate and affordable housing, resulting in high levels of homelessness with disproportionate impacts on certain groups, including women and children escaping family violence, First Nations people, older people and people with disability.<sup>74</sup> LSNT noted that the Northern Territory had the highest rate of homelessness in Australia, more than 12 per cent higher than the national average.<sup>75</sup>

54. JS15 recommended that a new National Housing and Homelessness Plan be adopted to include a comprehensive package of interventions, coordinated between all levels of government and the private sector, that supported rental tenants, as well as aspiring homeowners.<sup>76</sup> JS3 also recommended that Australia enact a transition programme for refugees and asylum seekers in public housing that provided financial literacy aid to assist their move into private housing and long-term financial stability.<sup>77</sup>

*Right to health*

55. JS6 recommended that Australia invest in equitable geographic access to culturally safe, affordable healthcare that enabled self-determination, bodily autonomy and reproductive justice.<sup>78</sup> United Families International recommended that Australia increase options and availability of mental health treatment for individuals struggling with suicidal ideation.<sup>79</sup>

56. FLCI emphasized that the rights of women and girls to physical and reproductive autonomy, including access to contraceptive and pregnancy termination services must be protected irrespective of socioeconomic class or Indigenous status.<sup>80</sup>

57. ALHR stated that while abortion was legal, providers were concentrated in metropolitan areas, making it difficult for women in regional areas to access timely and convenient care.<sup>81</sup> It recommended that Australia continue to advance sexual and reproductive health and counter discrimination and stereotyping in healthcare and prohibit non-therapeutic procedures resulting in permanent sterilization of people with disability.<sup>82</sup>

58. JS13 recommended that Australia effectively treat gambling as a public health issue by establishing a national regulator, prohibiting all gambling ads and banning inducements.<sup>83</sup>

*Right to education*

59. JS14 recommended that Australia establish legally binding national funding benchmarks to ensure public schools were equitably resourced, especially in low-income and regional areas.<sup>84</sup> Broken Chalk also recommended that Australia: give course materials, school meals, and transport tickets free of charge to address financial issues affecting First Nation families and update the curriculum and teacher methods to welcome Aboriginal stories and ensure the pupils feel represented in what they read; create multicultural, mandatory activities during school hours to raise awareness about the problem of racism and discrimination; and work with disability organizations to organize campaigns to promote inclusive and accessible schooling.<sup>85</sup>

60. RRL recommended that Australia address the distinctions in access to tertiary education based on the individuals' legal status, specifically those discriminating against refugees on temporary visas and asylum seekers, which not only affected the possibility of accessing and completing a university path but also employment and integration opportunities.<sup>86</sup>

### *Cultural rights*

61. LCA recommended that Australia legislate stronger and more effective First Nations cultural heritage protections.<sup>87</sup> JS15 recommended that Australia support the human rights of local and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities whose cultural heritage, way of life or livelihoods had been negatively affected by climate change.<sup>88</sup> First People languages must be preserved, taught and incorporated into civic functions. True bilingual education must become a reality for First Peoples where English was not a first language.<sup>89</sup>

### *The environment and business and human rights*

62. AI noted that Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target fell substantially short of the scale of effort required to limit warming to 1.5°C.<sup>90</sup> On 15 July 2025, the Federal Court dismissed a landmark case that argued the Australian Government breached its duty of care to protect the Torres Strait Islands from climate change.<sup>91</sup> JS14 recommended that Australia legislate the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment at the federal level, including the need for stewardship for future generations, by the end of 2027.<sup>92</sup> Just Atonement Inc. (JAI) recommended that Australia adopt clearly defined emission reduction targets and unambiguously commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels.<sup>93</sup> LCA also recommended that Australia ensure that its climate adaptation and mitigation measures fully implemented its international law obligations, including under the Paris Agreement.<sup>94</sup>

63. AI recommended that Australia: halt all new coal and gas projects and make a time-bound commitment to fully phasing out fossil fuel production and export; increase Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target to net zero by 2030; and accelerate human rights compliant renewable energy, storage, electrification, and energy efficiency with policies and programmes that were equitable, inclusive and uphold Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's self-determination.<sup>95</sup> HRW, JAI, JS15 made similar recommendations.<sup>96</sup>

64. ASA and LCA recommended that Australia adopt a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and implement the recommendations of the McMillan review of the Modern Slavery Act 2018, particularly for a stronger due diligence system, civil penalties for non-compliance and lower reporting thresholds.<sup>97</sup>

## **2. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### *Women*

65. LCA stated that family, domestic and sexual violence remained a significant health and welfare issue in Australia for women, particularly for those experiencing intersectional disadvantage. In 2021–22, 1 in 4 women experienced emotional abuse, and 1 in 6 women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence, by a current or previous partner.<sup>98</sup> JS15 recommended that Australia ensure there was sufficient funding for crisis supports, and that those supports allowed victim-survivors to be physically safe while continuing to be employed, pursue education and be connected.<sup>99</sup>

66. ALHR stated that women and girls with a disability experienced heightened levels of violence and discrimination in Australia.<sup>100</sup> LSNT also stated that First Nations women in the Northern Territory were disproportionately affected by family violence and had much higher rates of hospitalization due to family violence.<sup>101</sup> FLCI recommended that women's refuges and other domestic violence support services be restored, expanded and supported to operate as autonomous women's services.<sup>102</sup>

67. JS12 stated that the imprisonment of women, particularly First Nations women and mothers, was escalating faster than any other population group, driven by systemic racism, racial gendered violence, and the criminalization of poverty, disability and survival. It recommended that Australia urgently divest from prisons and invest in community-based, non-carceral responses to violence, poverty, and trauma, led by those directly impacted.<sup>103</sup>

### *Children*

68. ASA emphasized that research-informed prevention and identification frameworks, access to child-specific social support and protection, access to justice and effective remedies,

and child participation and survivor engagement mechanisms were all crucial to address the needs of children impacted by modern slavery in Australia.<sup>104</sup>

69. JS3 recommended that Australia mandate age verification requirements for all social media platforms to prevent underage access as a preventative measure against online harms.<sup>105</sup>

70. AI stated that Australia was failing to meet its international obligations on the treatment of children in the criminal legal system. Harsh bail, sentencing, and low age of criminal responsibility laws had increased the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.<sup>106</sup> Australia continued to criminalize and detain children as young as 10,<sup>107</sup> recommending that Australia raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 in line with international standards.<sup>108</sup> HRW expressed similar concerns.<sup>109</sup> According to HRW, children continued to be routinely subjected to solitary confinement in which they were locked in their cells for more than 20 hours a day.<sup>110</sup>

71. AI also noted that in 2024, the Northern Territory reintroduced spit hoods (a restraint device intended to prevent a person from spitting or biting) for children.<sup>111</sup> HRW recommended that Australia prohibit the practice of solitary confinement of children and the use of “spit hoods” on children.<sup>112</sup> LCA also recommended that Australia ensure non-custodial prevention, early intervention and diversion measures for children so that detention was a last resort.<sup>113</sup>

72. JS4 recommended that Australia mandate comprehensive, culturally safe, and trauma-informed health assessments, including mental health, cognitive, and neurodevelopmental screenings, for all children and young people upon initial contact with the criminal justice system.<sup>114</sup>

#### *Older persons*

73. JS4 recommended that Australia mandate state governments when providing funding for housing to ensure that individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, especially older persons, had access to affordable housing that was resistant to extreme weather, used passive heating and cooling techniques, and were supplied with renewable energy.<sup>115</sup> Australia should allocate federal funding for specialist services to cater for older persons experiencing extreme poverty and homelessness.<sup>116</sup>

74. HRW recommended that Australia: introduce legislation to prohibit the use of chemical restraints as a means of controlling the behaviour of older people with dementia or for the convenience of staff; and ensure the Commonwealth National Preventative Mechanism monitored aged care and other facilities in which chemical restraint was used, since chemical restraint could amount to torture or ill-treatment.<sup>117</sup>

#### *Persons with disabilities*

75. LCA recommended that Australia give full effect to the CRPD within its domestic legislation. Australia should realize its commitments in response to the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission, including in the areas of anti-discrimination law, implementing disability rights as part of a federal human rights act, protecting the rights of persons with disability in detention and/or interacting with the justice system, reviewing national principles relating to unfitness to plead, and resourcing specialized legal assistance services.<sup>118</sup>

76. HRW stated that prisoners with disabilities in Australia regularly experienced sexual, physical, and verbal violence from fellow prisoners or staff, and were disproportionately held in solitary confinement.<sup>119</sup>

77. ALHR noted the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability of Australia that all jurisdictions should amend or enact legislation prohibiting non-therapeutic procedures resulting in permanent sterilisation of people with disability, except where: there was a threat to the life of the person were the procedure not performed or the person with disability was an adult and had given voluntary and informed consent.<sup>120</sup> European Centre for Law and Justice made a similar recommendation.<sup>121</sup>



78. AMA recommended that Australia: develop and adopt a national roadmap for inclusive education that included a progressive phase-out of all segregated educational settings; impose a moratorium on any public investment in new segregated schools or units and invest in making regular schools inclusive and universally accessible and phase out or merge segregated settings with general education settings, ensuring that students with disability were educated alongside their peers; and ensure participation of people with disability in implementing all reforms to ensure inclusive education.<sup>122</sup>

*Indigenous Peoples and minorities*

79. Tri-Nation noted that Australia held the Voice Referendum in 2023 when Australians voted on a proposal ‘To alter the Constitution to recognize the First Nations peoples by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.’ Australians overwhelmingly had rejected to recognize the First Nations people’s inherent rights, human rights and legally recognized rights and interests.<sup>123</sup> JS11 recommended that Australia commission a fully resourced, independent Makarrata Commission as a national mechanism for truth-telling, historical justice, and agreement-making with First Nations peoples.<sup>124</sup> FAIRA recommended that Australia assist First Nations to reinstate the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, and increase the capacity of the Congress to participate, in cooperation with the Government, in the development of a national action plan to achieve the ends of the UNDRIP.<sup>125</sup> CCSCAC, HRW and LCA also recommended that Australia work with First Nations peoples to establish a national action plan and an Indigenous independent monitoring body to implement the UNDRIP.<sup>126</sup>

80. JS15 stated that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities experienced lower life expectancy and poorer health outcomes, while encountering higher rates of infant and maternal morbidity and mortality, family and domestic violence, suicide, and incarceration.<sup>127</sup> JS15 recommended that Australia provide sufficient funding targeted to achieve the Closing the Gap outcomes, prioritizing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organizations to deliver services wherever possible.<sup>128</sup>

81. Djukun Nation recommended that Australia remove political conflicts of interest from the Native Title system by requiring full transparency when political figures (past or present) were involved in decision-making over Indigenous lands.<sup>129</sup>

82. AI noted that incarceration rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were 15.2 times higher than for non-Indigenous adults.<sup>130</sup> In 2024, Indigenous people made up nearly 25 per cent of all deaths in custody, yet only 3.8 per cent of the population.<sup>131</sup> LCA recommended that Australia take immediate measures to address the over-incarceration of First Nations people.<sup>132</sup>

83. HRW recommended that Australia: explicitly prohibit and take active steps to stop separation of Indigenous children from birth families because of socio-economic status, including poverty and financial reasons; and legislate guaranteed legal representation for parents experiencing child removal to ensure the best interests of the child are a primary consideration.<sup>133</sup>

*Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons*

84. JS8 noted that LGBTIQ+ people in custody faced significant risks to safety, health and dignity, compounded by intersecting factors, including Aboriginality, disability, age, and cultural or linguistic diversity.<sup>134</sup> JS6 also stated that LGBTIQ+ people seeking asylum and refugees faced systemic exclusion and barriers to services.<sup>135</sup>

85. ALHR recommended that Australia: reinstate access to gender-affirming healthcare for minors based on clinical best practice and the best interests of the child; and remove medical evidence requirements for legal gender recognition and repeal the discriminatory exemptions under the Sex Discrimination Act that permitted discrimination against trans students and staff.<sup>136</sup>

*Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers*

86. JS4 recommended that Australia amend the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme to allow workers to change employers without risking their visa status as reducing dependency on a single employer would mitigate conditions that resembled indentured labour and empowered workers to leave exploitative situations.<sup>137</sup>

87. AI and HRW stated Australia continued its unlawful offshore processing policy, including transferring people seeking asylum to Nauru, and indefinite immigration detention onshore.<sup>138</sup> By February 2025, 93 refugees and people seeking asylum were in Nauru, many experiencing serious health conditions.<sup>139</sup> As at April 2025, over 1,070 people were in immigration detention in Australia, the average period being 456 days.<sup>140</sup>

88. AI recommended that Australia end offshore ‘processing’ and detention, and allow refugees and asylum seekers sent to Nauru and Papua New Guinea to settle in Australia; and immediately pass legislation for medical evacuation from offshore places for treatment in Australia.<sup>141</sup> HRW, LCA and JS4 made similar recommendations.<sup>142</sup>

*Stateless persons*

89. JS7 stated that Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continued to experience a vastly disproportionate rate of unregistered births.<sup>143</sup>

90. JS7 recommended that Australia: develop and introduce a legislative statelessness determination procedure; develop and introduce a dedicated visa category for all stateless persons; provide targeted funding to appropriate legal services to assist eligible stateless persons to apply for Australian citizenship; and ensure that risks of statelessness were identified and addressed prior to entering into human mobility agreements with other States in the context of climate change.<sup>144</sup>

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/47/8, A/HRC/47/8/Add.1, and A/HRC/47/2.

<sup>2</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

*Civil society**Individual submissions:*

ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
ALHR	Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, Sydney (Australia);
All Means All	All Means All - The Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education, NSW (Australia);
Anti-Slavery Australia	Anti-Slavery Australia, Ultimo (Australia);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
CCSCAC	Currie Country Social Change Aboriginal Corporation, Tweed Heads South (Australia);
DJUKUN Nation	Djukun Nation, Broome (Australia);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
FAIRA	Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action, Woolloongabba QLD (Australia);
FLCI	Feminist Legal Clinic Inc., Glebe (Australia);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., New York (United States of America);
LCA	Law Council of Australia, Braddon ACT (Australia);
LSNT	Law Society Northern Territory, Darwin (Australia);
MALS	Melbourne Activist Legal Support, Collingwood (Australia);
NLSG	Nawoola Loonmi Selina Galbat, Kununurra (Australia);

RRL	Refugee Rights Lab, Padova (Italy);
Tri-Nation	Sovereign Tri-Nation of Ngadjon Yidinji and Mbabaram Aboriginal Corporation, Mareeba (Australia);
UFI	United Families International, Gilbert, Arizona (United States of America);
Unite for Rights	Unite for Rights, San Francisco (United States of America).

*Joint submissions:*

JS1	<b>Joint submission 1 submitted by:</b> CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg (South Africa); Melbourne Activist Legal Support, Melbourne (Australia);
JS2	<b>Joint submission 2 submitted by:</b> Capital Punishment Justice Project, Melbourne (Australia); Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network;
JS3	<b>Joint submission 3 submitted by:</b> Marist International Solidarity Foundation, Rome (Italy); Marist International Solidarity Foundation – FMSI Star of the Sea Province Parramatta Marist High School;
JS4	<b>Joint submission 4 submitted by:</b> Edmund Rice International, Geneva (Switzerland); Edmund Rice International, Congregation of Christian Brothers - Oceania, Edmund Rice Community Services, Edmund Rice Centre WA, The Global Centre for Social Justice and Advocacy, The Josephite Justice Network;
JS5	<b>Joint submission 5 submitted by:</b> International Presentation Association; Edmund Rice International, New York (United States of America);
JS6	<b>Joint submission 6 submitted by:</b> Coalition of NGOs for UPR - Australia, Sydney (Australia); Human Rights Law Centre, Kingsford Legal Centre, Indigenous People's Organisation-Australia, and Community Legal Centres Australia;
JS7	<b>Joint submission 7 submitted by:</b> Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, Melbourne (Australia); Nationality For All Refugee Advice and Casework Service;
JS8	<b>Joint submission 8 submitted by:</b> Ali Hogg, Carlton (Australia); Drummond Street Services Queerspace;
JS9	<b>Joint submission 9 submitted by:</b> Affiliation of Australian Women's Advocacy Alliances, Canberra (Australia); Abolish Surrogacy Australia (ABSA); Affiliation of Australian Women's Advocacy Alliances (AAWAA); Australian Feminists For Women's Rights (AF4WR); Coalition of Activist Lesbians (CoAL); IWD; Lesbian Action Group (LAG); FINRRAGE (Feminist International Network of Resistance to Reproductive and Genetic Engineering); Woman Up QLD; Women Speak Tasmania (WST); Women's Declaration International (Australia); Women's Rights Network Australia (WRNA);
JS10	<b>Joint submission 10 submitted by:</b> Rationalist Society of Australia, Hawksburn, Victoria (Australia); Atheist Foundation of Australia; Humanists Australia; Recovering From Religion Australia; National Secular Lobby; Sydney Atheists; Queensland Parents for Secular State Schools; Fairness in Religion in Schools; Secular Association of New South Wales;
JS11	<b>Joint submission 11 submitted by:</b> Sisters of St Joseph, North Sydney NSW (Australia); Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart; Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar; Loreto Sisters; Sisters of Mercy Parramatta; Passionists International;
JS12	<b>Joint submission 12 submitted by:</b> Elena Jeffreys, Newtown (Australia); National Network of Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (The National Network); Sisters Inside Scarlet Alliance; Australian Sex Workers Association (Scarlet Alliance); Asian Migrant Sex Workers Advisory Group (AMSWAG);
JS13	<b>Joint submission 13 submitted by:</b> World Evangelical Alliance, Geneva (Switzerland); Ethos - Evangelical Alliance Centre for Christianity and Society (Australia);
JS14	<b>Joint submission 14 submitted by:</b> Voices of Influence Australia, Darlinghurst (Australia); Young Diplomats Society ('YDS');

- JS15 **Joint submission 15 submitted by:** World Council of Churches, Geneva (Switzerland); National Council of Churches Australia; Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand; Religious Society of Friends (Quakers Australia); Salvation Army Australia Territory; Uniting Church in Australia;
- JS17 **Joint submission 17 submitted by:** UNU-RCE Hawai'i Moananuiākea; OceaniaHR, Honolulu (United States of America).

*National human rights institution:*

AHRC Australian Human Rights Commission, Sydney (Australia).

<sup>3</sup> AHRC, p.5.

<sup>4</sup> AHRC, p.4.

<sup>5</sup> AHRC, p.5.

<sup>6</sup> AHRC, p.6.

<sup>7</sup> AHRC, p.14.

<sup>8</sup> AHRC, p.7.

<sup>9</sup> AHRC, p.17.

<sup>10</sup> AHRC, para. 61.

<sup>11</sup> AHRC, p.16.

<sup>12</sup> AHRC, p.15.

<sup>13</sup> AHRC, para. 60.

<sup>14</sup> AHRC, p.9.

<sup>15</sup> AHRC, p.7.

<sup>16</sup> AHRC, p.16.

<sup>17</sup> AHRC, p.16.

<sup>18</sup> AHRC, para. 28.

<sup>19</sup> AHRC, p.9.

<sup>20</sup> AHRC, p.10.

<sup>21</sup> AHRC, p.13.

<sup>22</sup> AHRC, p.12.

<sup>23</sup> AHRC, p.11.

<sup>24</sup> AHRC, p.10.

<sup>25</sup> AHRC, p.8.

<sup>26</sup> AHRC, p.12.

<sup>27</sup> AHRC, p.14.

<sup>28</sup> The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD

## ICPPED

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from  
Enforced Disappearance

- 29 LCA, para. 13.
- 30 JS6, para. 14.
- 31 JS4, para. 78.
- 32 JS11, para. 66.2.
- 33 ICAN, p. 3; JS15, Recommendation 5 on page 14.
- 34 AI, para. 12.
- 35 AI, para. 11.
- 36 JS1, p. 11.
- 37 AMA, para. 31.
- 38 AI, para. 10.
- 39 AI, para. 67; HRW, p. 2; LCA, para. 3; JS6, para. 7. See also JS14, Recommendations 4–5 on page 12.
- 40 HRW, p. 2; Melbourne Activist Legal Support (MALS), JS1, and JS4, para. 6.
- 41 JS9, page 2.
- 42 Unite for Rights, Recommendation 5 on page 5.
- 43 ALHR, Recommendation 4 on page 11.
- 44 LCA, para. 21.
- 45 JS2, para. 2.4.
- 46 JS2, paras. 4.10 and 4.18.
- 47 JS6, para. 58.
- 48 LCA, para. 19.
- 49 LSNT, para. 20.
- 50 JS12, para. 6.
- 51 LSNT, para. 13.
- 52 JS10, Recommendation 5.1 on page 20.
- 53 JS1, p. 9.
- 54 JS1, p. 9.
- 55 ADF International, para. 4.
- 56 ADF International, para. 43(a)-(b).
- 57 AI, para. 52.
- 58 AI, para. 55.
- 59 AI, para. 56.
- 60 MALS, para. 1.3. See also JS6, para. 67.
- 61 AI, paras. 82–83.
- 62 LCA, para. 34.
- 63 JS1, p. 10.
- 64 JS6, para. 64.
- 65 JS5, para. 8.c.
- 66 JS1, p. 10.
- 67 JS12, para. 10.
- 68 ASA, para. 14.
- 69 ASA, para. 28.
- 70 JS15, Recommendation 12 on page 9.
- 71 JS6, para. 189(e).
- 72 JS15, page 8.
- 73 JS6, para. 142.
- 74 LCA, para. 32.
- 75 LSNT, para. 15.
- 76 JS15, Recommendation 2 on page 10. See also JS11, para. 57.
- 77 JS3, para. 62.b.
- 78 JS6, para. 177.
- 79 UFI, para. 20.
- 80 FLCI, para. 3.
- 81 ALHR, para. 3.6.
- 82 ALHR, Recommendation 5 on page 11.
- 83 JS13, para. 38.
- 84 JS14, Recommendation 29 on page 41.
- 85 Broken Chalk, paras. 52–53, 60 and 63. See also JS11, para. 66.3.
- 86 RRL, Recommendation 3.2 on page 10.

- <sup>87</sup> LCA, para. 24. See also JS6, paras. 29–30.  
<sup>88</sup> JS15, Recommendation 6 on page 3.  
<sup>89</sup> JS15, Recommendation 7 on page 6.  
<sup>90</sup> AI, para. 62.  
<sup>91</sup> AI, para. 59.  
<sup>92</sup> JS14, Recommendation 33 on page 45.  
<sup>93</sup> JAI, para. 21.  
<sup>94</sup> LCA, para. 36. See also JS17, page 3.  
<sup>95</sup> AI, paras. 84–86.  
<sup>96</sup> HRW, page 10; JAI, paras. 22–23; JS15, Recommendations 1–4 on page 3.  
<sup>97</sup> ASA, para. 19; LCA, para. 38. See also JS6, paras. 192–193.  
<sup>98</sup> LCA, para. 27.  
<sup>99</sup> JS15, Recommendation 1 on page 12.  
<sup>100</sup> ALHR, para. 8.1.  
<sup>101</sup> LSNT, para. 31. See also JS4, para. 47.  
<sup>102</sup> FLCI, para. 14.  
<sup>103</sup> JS12, para. 2.  
<sup>104</sup> ASA, para. 52.  
<sup>105</sup> JS3, para. 45.a.  
<sup>106</sup> AI, para. 23.  
<sup>107</sup> AI, para. 25.  
<sup>108</sup> AI, para. 74.  
<sup>109</sup> HRW, para. 20.  
<sup>110</sup> HRW, para. 19.  
<sup>111</sup> AI, para. 35.  
<sup>112</sup> HRW, page 7.  
<sup>113</sup> LCA, para. 10.  
<sup>114</sup> JS4, para. 35.  
<sup>115</sup> JS4, para. 13.  
<sup>116</sup> JS4, para. 54. See also JS6, paras. 102–108.  
<sup>117</sup> HRW, page 9.  
<sup>118</sup> LCA, para. 26.  
<sup>119</sup> HRW, para. 28.  
<sup>120</sup> ALHR, para. 3.12.  
<sup>121</sup> ECLJ, para. 16.  
<sup>122</sup> AMA, para. 31.  
<sup>123</sup> Tri-Nation, para. 7.  
<sup>124</sup> JS11, para. 21.1.  
<sup>125</sup> FAIRA, para. 12. See also JS14, Recommendations 8–11 on page 16; JS6, para. 22.  
<sup>126</sup> CCSCAC, page 6; HRW, page 8; LCA, para. 23.  
<sup>127</sup> JS15, p. 4.  
<sup>128</sup> JS15, Recommendation 6 on page 6.  
<sup>129</sup> Djukun Nation, Recommendation 6 on page 3. See also JS6, para. 28.  
<sup>130</sup> AI, para. 17.  
<sup>131</sup> AI, para. 22.  
<sup>132</sup> LCA, para. 17.  
<sup>133</sup> HRW, page 5.  
<sup>134</sup> JS8, page 1.  
<sup>135</sup> JS6, para. 91.  
<sup>136</sup> ALHR, para. 5.4.  
<sup>137</sup> JS4, para. 79.  
<sup>138</sup> AI, para. 39; HRW, para. 7.  
<sup>139</sup> AI, para. 45.  
<sup>140</sup> AI, para. 51.  
<sup>141</sup> AI, paras. 79–80.  
<sup>142</sup> HRW, page 4; LCA, para. 31; JS4, paras. 69–71.  
<sup>143</sup> JS7, para. 4.  
<sup>144</sup> JS7, para. 80.
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