

Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education 18 June 2018

Australian Statement

Australia welcomes the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education but regrets the missed opportunity of being able to speak to her report due to its delayed release.

Australia remains committed to the full realisation of the right to education. Education is of the utmost importance in developing human potential and in enabling and informing participation in a democratic society.

Education also enables development and is crucial to helping people overcome poverty. Australia and its neighbours benefit from aid program investments in education, which support human development, economic growth and stability across the region.

Given its importance, we must continually work to ensure that access to education is universal, and we must ensure that barriers to equitable access are removed. Australia's investments in education internationally prioritise equity, with a particular focus on girls and children with disabilities, because fairer education systems are also the most effective.

In a country as large as Australia, we recognise that students living in regional, rural and remote communities sometimes face challenges and barriers that impact on their learning outcomes.

The Australian Government has recently made a range of commitments to ensure the education needs of the almost 400,000 students from regional, rural and remote communities are addressed.

This includes increased funding for students in these communities, better access to information and support for students transitioning to post-school education opportunities, and ensuring partnerships with regional communities inform national policies.

238 Words