**Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with**

**the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances and the**

**Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**

**12 September**

**Australian Statement**

Australia thanks both Working Groups for their reports.

Australia opposes arbitrary detention.

We call on all States to respect article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and uphold article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In line with the *Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963* (VCCR), Australia provides consular assistance to Australians deprived of liberty overseas. Australian staff in Canberra and around the world provide consular assistance in person, over the phone and online.

Where notification of a detention is withheld and/or access to an Australian detainee is limited, we actively engage with host governments to advocate for adherence to the legal obligations assumed by all States Parties under the VCCR. Australia takes seriously its responsibility to uphold the VCCR for consular situations occurring on Australian territory.

Australia is committed to engaging in good faith with the UN Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. We continue to cooperate and engage with special procedures and have issued a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders. We encourage other States to do likewise.

Australia has formally responded to all of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention’s formal communications and will continue to do so in good faith. We look forward to engaging with the Working Group further on its request to visit to Australia in 2019.

***[221]* Words**