**UN Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**Oral statement - Submission of Australia’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) monitoring website as Australia’s UPR mid-term report**

Australia is a strong supporter of the UPR process. At the mid‑point between our second and third cycle, we would like to update the Council on our progress in implementing the UPR recommendations from 2015.

Of the 290 recommendations, Australia accepted 150 and noted 50 to consider further. In December 2017, Australia launched its UPR monitoring website. The website provides information on Australia’s position on each of the recommendations from our last UPR appearance.

I am pleased to advise that the UPR monitoring website will be updated this year as Australia’s mid‑term report on UPR implementation. I am also pleased to advise the Council of several developments that demonstrate Australia’s commitment to implementing our UPR commitments.

In 2015, 29 states recommended that Australia ratify OPCAT. On 21 December 2017, Australia ratified OPCAT. Over the next three years, the Australian Government will work with states and territories to establish Australia’s National Preventive Mechanism.

In Australia’s second UPR, several states made recommendations that Australia should work towards promoting the rights of Indigenous Australians. This year, Australian governments have been refreshing the ‘Closing the Gap’ targets to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians. While there is still work to do, Australia is on-track to meet three of the current ‘Closing the Gap’ targets.

A third major development in implementing recommendations made during Australia’s second UPR is that same-sex marriage is now recognised under Australian law. In December 2017, amendments to the definition of marriage in the *Marriage Act 1961* took effect, which allow two people to marry, regardless of their sex or gender.

Australia looks forward to engaging with the Human Rights Council and other countries during our next review in 2020.