

Human Rights Council – 41st Session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue:
Special Rapporteur for Health and Special Rapporteur for Leprosy

24 June 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteurs for their reports. We welcome the focus of the report by the Special Rapporteur for Health on the critical role of the social and underlying determinants of health in realising the right to mental health.

Australia promotes the right of everyone to achieve the highest attainable standard of mental health.

Australia is firmly committed to ensuring people of all ages and backgrounds who experience mental disorders and other mental health conditions receive the treatment, care and support they need.

We recognise the importance of the psychosocial, political, economic and physical environments in building and sustaining mental health and well-being. We are committed to addressing the broad determinants of mental disorders and other mental health conditions.

Australia is prioritising mental health and suicide prevention by implementing: the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan; targeted programs to support Indigenous Australians, who suffer unacceptably high levels of suicide; and national mental health reforms to improve access to appropriate treatments and reduce stigma. Public discussion on mental health is encouraged through initiatives like 'R U OK' Day and supporting youth ambassadors.

As noted by the Special Rapporteur for Health, older persons can experience particular challenges to their mental health. Could the Special Rapporteur share some examples of innovative programs which help promote and protect the rights of older persons?

222 Words (Maximum 220)