

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Indigenous Issues
and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**

18 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples for her report and welcomes the reports prepared by the Expert Mechanism.

All Australian Governments, under our federal system are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure they play an integral part in decision-making that affects their lives, including co-design approaches for matters of concern to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for highlighting the information Australia provided on the Children’s Koori Court in Victoria. This Court incorporates cultural practices into legal proceedings and identifies alternative sentencing options with community elders.

Australia is also trialling a transition program for youth leaving detention. It supports young Indigenous people returning to their families and communities safely, without reoffending.

Australia’s submission to the Expert Mechanism’s report on implementation of the Declaration outlines what we seek to achieve through the refresh of the Australian Government’s critical program to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. This process demonstrates Australia’s commitment to working in partnership with Indigenous Australians, to build genuine respect and inclusion; and drive social and economic empowerment, in order to improve outcomes for all Indigenous Australians. Amongst other things, this will help address the underlying causes of the overrepresentation of Indigenous Australians in the justice system.

Could the Special Rapporteur share some examples of innovative approaches which have helped to improve justice outcomes for young Indigenous people?

Words: 237