

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 12th Session

Item 5: Inter-sessional activities and follow-up to thematic studies and advice Study on Free, prior and informed consent: a human-rights based approach

DRAFT Australia Statement – to be checked against delivery

Speaker: Prof. Ian Anderson

Thank you Chair.

Australia welcomes the Expert Mechanism's 2018 study on 'free, prior and informed consent: a human rights-based approach'.

Australia is pleased to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the ways free, prior and informed consent can be realised to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Australia recognises the importance of engaging in good faith with Indigenous peoples on decisions that affect them. Australia is resetting how we develop policy and programs by creating genuine and formal partnerships with Indigenous Australians, both in overarching frameworks and for local solutions.

In line with Article 19 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, mechanisms for consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are used to inform policy and program development.

We've established a landmark partnership agreement between all Australian governments and Indigenous Australian representatives. The agreement is about sharing-decision making and oversight, having ongoing relationships to develop, implement and monitor solutions. This is realised through the new Joint Council on Closing the Gap, which for the first time brings all parties together at the table.

Expanding regional decision making and co-design grows local solutions. Regional agreements tackle specific policy concerns, like the Northern Territory Remote Housing Agreement between the Aboriginal Land Councils, the regional government and the federal government, including Indigenous Australians in decision-making.

Thank you.