

# Civil society UPR shadow reporting

The role of Australian  
civil society in the  
Universal Periodic  
Review



UNSW  
SYDNEY



UNSW  
Kingsford  
Legal Centre



# What is shadow reporting?

- The UPR is based on 3 main documents:
  - Information provided by the State under review
  - Information in the reports of UN human rights experts
  - Information from other stakeholders
- Civil Society Organisations are invited to submit information to the OHCHR which is then summarised – this is sometimes known as shadow reporting

# What is the process?

- The OHCHR provides strict technical guidelines for CSO reports
  - Reports are due 6-8 months before the State is reviewed
  - Word limits: 2,815 for a single CSO and 5,630 for joint submissions
  - Preferred languages are English, French, or Spanish
  - Submissions cannot be anonymous or confidential
- Reports should provide credible and reliable information about the human rights situation in the State and should make S.M.A.R.T. recommendations

# Why submit a report?

- To counterbalance the State report and provide a fuller picture
- To influence the review process by providing information and recommendations that can be adopted by other States
- To provide a basis for advocacy both domestically and internationally

# Resources and support

- UPR Info – non-profit dedicated to supporting CSOs with the UPR process
- Resource library and online information sessions



# Australia's approach to shadow reporting

# The Australian Joint Civil Society Report

- A unified and collective approach
- Co-authored by human rights experts
- Divided by thematic issues
- Reviewed and edited with an intersectional focus

The last Joint NGO  
Submission was  
endorsed by  
**202**  
organisations  
across Australia

# Kingsford Legal Centre's role

- Member of the coordinating committee alongside:
  - Human Rights Law Centre
  - Community Legal Centres Australia
  - Indigenous Peoples Organisation Australia



Indigenous Peoples'  
Organisation-Australia

Human  
Rights  
Law  
Centre.



Community Legal Centres  
Australia

# The process so far

- Meeting with previously involved CSOs and the Australian Human Rights Commission in December 2024
- Online forums to get other CSOs involved and collect expressions of interest in January and February
- Expert working groups across 21 thematic issues

# Next steps

- Initial draft content due 31 March
- Consolidation and edit for repetition and consistency
- Intersectional review
- Substantive review of sources
- Call out for endorsements by early June
- Final report due 26 June



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