



ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc.) (ALSWA)



Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Fact Sheet

Background

In 2006 the Human Rights Council began reviewing the human rights record of all 192 members of the UN as part of the new **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** process. This involves a systematic peer review of **all** types of human rights in **all** countries belonging to the UN every four years. The initial review of all countries will be completed in 2011. See over the page for further information about the UPR process.

Australia and the UPR

On 27 January 2011 Australia's human rights record was reviewed by a Working Group of the Human Rights Council. Thirty of the 145 recommendations for Australia to improve human rights referred directly to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Many other recommendations will also impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Australia has yet to accept or reject any recommendations choosing instead, to formally respond at the June 2011 session of the Human Rights Council. This is an opportunity for us as Australians to hold our Government accountable to the international human rights standards accepted by the rest of the world.

We need to lobby the Australian Government to:

1. accept all recommendations made during the UPR;
2. provide reasons for any recommendations they reject;
3. engage directly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations about how to implement the recommendations they accept;
4. adequately resource Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to strengthen capacity for the engagement process; and
5. create a UPR implementation committee that includes adequate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

What you can do?

- Educate yourselves and your community by holding UPR events at your workplace/social club/church/lobby group.
- Sign our online petition
- Include our 5 points in a letter to the Attorney General:

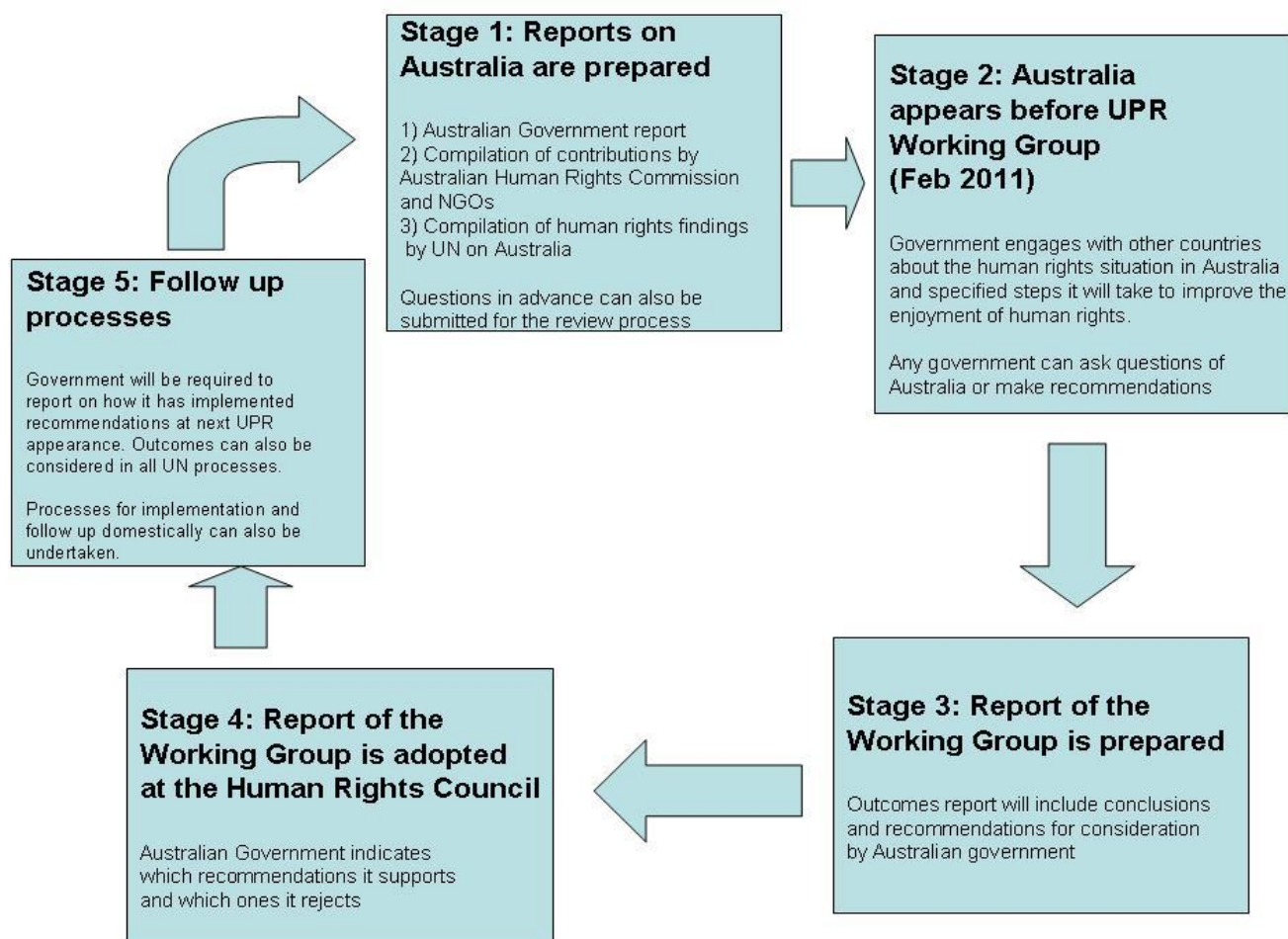
The Hon Robert McClelland MP
Attorney-General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Check out the ALSWA website for a template letter and online petition (currently being

developed): www.als.org.au

UPR Process

There are several stages in the UPR process. The Australian Human Rights Commission has summarised these processes as they apply to Australia in the diagram below:



For more info about Australia and the UPR see:

Human Rights Law Resource Centre:

<http://www.hrlrc.org.au/content/universal-periodic-review-ngo-delegation-updates/>

Australian Human Rights Commission:

<http://www.hreoc.gov.au/upr/index.html>

Australian Government:

http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_InternationalHumanRights_UniversalPeriodicReview

For more general information about the UPR see:

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx>

Human Rights Council webcasts:

<http://www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/archive.asp?go=110127#pm1>

UPR-info.org <http://www.upr-info.org/>