**Request for information: Resolution 32/14 on the Protection of the human rights of migrants: strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants in large movements**

**Australia’s response**

Australia takes a comprehensive and practical approach, in line with existing international human rights, humanitarian and refugee laws, to manage the complex challenges surrounding the movement of migrants.

Australia upholds the human rights of all migrants and refugees. In order to support the most vulnerable, Australia ensures that all persons in its jurisdiction are treated with respect and dignity and that they have access to protection. Additionally, Australia has a firm response to unscrupulous and criminal behaviour that undermines people’s right to protection and dignity.

Australia recognises the value of the contributions made by migrants in Australia. As a country with one of the highest proportion of migrants as part of the population, Australia understands the need for orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Part of implementing a well-managed migration program is to distinguish between different categories of migrants, including those with protection claims under international law and those without claims.

Australia recognises the human rights of all persons.  States must determine a persons’ status in accordance with human rights law and whether that person has a right to remain within the territory of that State. This ensures orderly, safe and regular migration. In determining a migrant’s status, Australia recognises the importance of equal protection before the law.  Where migrants do have a right to remain, specialised support to assist migrants integrate and access services helps to ensure the full realisation of rights.

We continue to provide refugees and others in need of international protection with a safe and legal pathway to resettlement, through our humanitarian program. Australia is one of the top UNHCR resettlement countries in the world. We value working with partner countries and international organisations in addressing the global challenge of irregular migration. We will continue to work with our partners to build safe, regular and enabling migration.

Australia is pleased to be hosting a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants in November 2016 and we are committed to showcasing Australia’s positive approach to migration, social cohesion and our multicultural society.