



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Universal Periodic Review Australia 2015

Amanda Alford

Deputy Director, Policy and Advocacy
National Association of Community Legal Centres

Overview

- UN Human Rights System
- What is the Universal Periodic Review?
- How is the UPR Process Helpful for NGO's?
- What Happened/Worked Well Last Time? Lessons?
- NGO Involvement, Key Stages of the UPR and 2015/2016 Timeline
- Thematic Areas



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

UN Human Rights System and International Human Rights Law

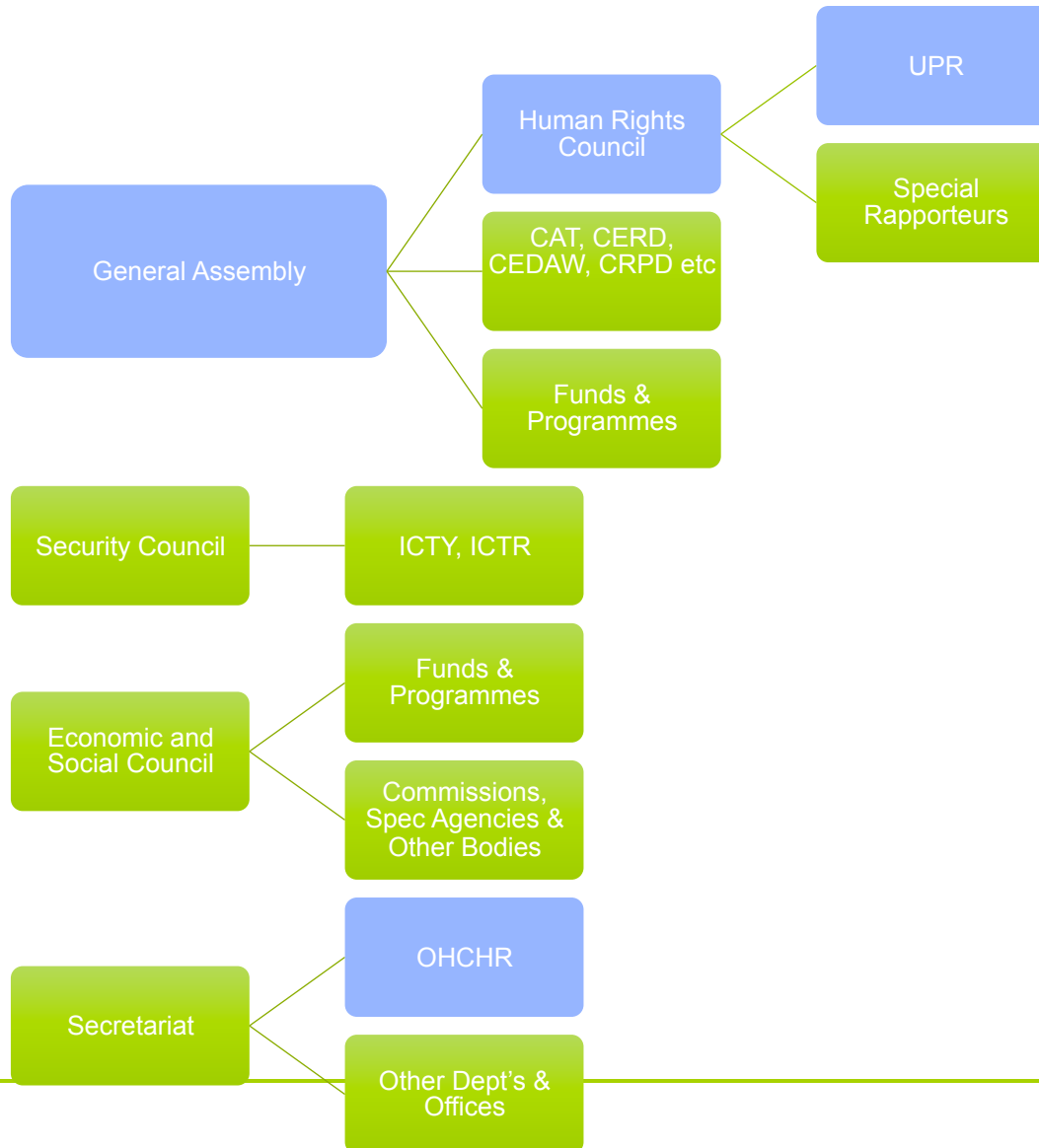
International Human Rights Law:

- Treaties (UDHR and 9 key multilateral treaties including ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CERD, CAT, CROC, CRPD etc)
- Customary International Law: State practice and opinio juris
- Judicial decisions; teachings; and work of treaty committee bodies

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

UN Structure



What is the Universal Periodic Review?

- UN Human Rights Council process
- Established in 2006 when HRC was established
- All UN Member States once every 4 years

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

What is the Universal Periodic Review?

The UPR differs from Treaty Bodies reviews in a number of ways:

- Peer review process not review by independent experts
- Indv Governments make recommendations
- UPR allows consideration of human rights record of all UN Member States as considers UN Charter, UDHR, human rights treaties state has ratified, voluntary pledges and IHL



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Second UPR Cycle

- First cycle saw 48 countries reviewed each year.
Australia's First UPR 2011
- Second cycle commenced May 2012
- Second cycle focus on implementation of accepted recommendations and other developments in the human rights situation in Australia

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Basis for Australia's UPR

- National/Government Report
- OHCHR Information (10 pages)
- Other Stakeholder Information (including from AHRC and NGOs) (10 pages total)

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Key Stakeholders

- Member States/Governments
- National Human Rights Institutions (in Australia, the Australian Human Rights Commission)
- Non-Government Organisations/Civil Society (both Australian and international)



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

How is the UPR Process Useful for NGOs?

- Critique Australia's human rights record
- Dialogue with Government
- Develop knowledge of human rights in Australia
- Use of international human rights standards to secure domestic implementation and use in law reform, policy development, advocacy and litigation
- One of a range of international processes as part of broader advocacy

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

What Happened Last Time?

- Overview of Australia's First UPR
- NGO Involvement: Joint Report, Mission visits and NGO delegation
- Lessons/insights

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

What Worked Well Last Time?

- Expertise from range of NGOs
- Early preparation
- Range of resources for different purposes
- Commitment to engage in follow-up



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Lessons from Last Time

- Value in producing a joint NGO report
- Take care re: wording of recommendations
- Do more advocacy with missions/embassies in Australia well before Australia's appearance
- Importance of follow-up

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

What Has Happened Since Last Time?

- Impact of voluntary commitments and recommendations on domestic policy, NGO lobbying etc
- Monitoring of implementation
- Role of NGOs: Joint NGO Update Report coordinated by NACLC
- Australian Human Rights Commission annual progress reports

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

NGO Involvement in 2015 Review

- What will we produce and do? (Joint NGO Report of 5630 words, Factsheets, Lobbying, Follow up)
- How can/will NGO's be involved?
- NGO Coalition



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

NGO Involvement in 2015 Review

- Consultation and teleconferences
- Identification of gaps/new issues and areas
- Reflection on last UPR and implementation
- Drafting, writing and endorsing draft Joint Report
- Preparation of factsheets
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Follow up on implementation of recommendations

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

NGO Coalition

- Coordinating Committee (Amanda Alford, Anna Brown and Emma Golledge)
- Advisory Committee
- Key/Lead NGOs
- Supporting/Other NGOs



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Australia's Next UPR Timeline: Key Stages and Dates

- 23 March 2015: NGO Report(s) Due
- 20 July 2015: Government Report Due
- November 2015: Australia's Appearance at HRC ('Working Group')
- Jan/Feb 2016: Adoption of 'Outcomes Report'

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Australia's UPR Timeline: NGO Input

- 30 January 2015: Contributions from Lead NGOs Due
 - 23 March 2015: NGO Report(s) Due
 - Dec 2014–June 2015: Consultation and Feedback in Relation to Australian Government Report
 - 20 July 2015: Government Report Due
 - July 2015–Nov 2015: Lobbying Government including about Voluntary Commitments
 - August/Sep 2015: Embassy Meetings Canberra & Sydney
-

Australia's UPR Timeline: NGO Input

- 5–9 October 2015: Pre-Session UPR Info Session in Geneva
 - November 2015: 23rd Session of Human Rights Council- Australia's Appearance at HRC
 - Nov 2015–Feb 2016: NGO Advocacy (Gov to Accept Recommendations)
 - Jan/Feb 2016: Adoption of 'Outcomes Report'
 - Post Feb 2016: Education, Follow Up, Implementation, and Monitoring
-

Key Thematic Areas

- Range of key thematic areas
- Are there additional areas? Are there opportunities to combine areas?

- Group discussion



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Moving Forward

- Stay involved in the process
- Contact the lead NGOs in each area
- Timeline

#ausUPR

Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Questions

Any Questions?



Australia's Human Rights Score Card

Contact Details: Coordinating Committee

Amanda Alford

National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)

amanda_alford@clc.net.au or (02) 9264 9595

Emma Golledge

Kingsford Legal Centre

e.golledge@unsw.edu.au or (02) 9385 9566

Anna Brown

Human Rights Law Centre

Anna.brown@hrlc.org.au or (03) 8636 4456



Australia's Human Rights Score Card
