

# Australian Council of Human Rights Authorities

## Summary of 3-4 May 2018 Meeting

The Australian Council of Human Rights Authorities (ACHRA), which comprises the State, Territory and Federal human rights and discrimination authorities, met in Sydney on 3-4 May 2018 to consider a number of issues of common concern and interest.

### Contribution of Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane

ACHRA acknowledges the positive contribution of Tim Soutphommasane, who finishes his five-year term as Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner in August 2018. We pay tribute to the profound impact of work in preventing and responding to racism, and empowering vulnerable members of our community.

### Children's Rights

ACHRA welcomed the Report of the *Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory* released on 17 November 2017 and final report of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* released on 15 December 2017. ACHRA heard from Julie Inman-Grant, E-Safety Commissioner about her important work in keeping Australian safer online, including protecting children from cyberbullying, new programs such as eSafety Women, Women Influencing Tech Spaces (WITS), Digital Literacy and Safety App for remote indigenous communities and Be Connected for older Australians. The Federal Children's Commissioner noted the development of draft National Statement of Principles on Child Safe Organisations, as part of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

### Sports, human rights and equality

ACHRA met with Peter Downs National Manager of *Play by the Rules*, a national inclusive sports program which ACHRA are key partners.

### Gender equality

ACHRA noted the important work promoting gender equality in institutions, including auditing implementation of the Report *Change the Course: National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities* by the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) and the South Australian Equal Opportunity Commission (SAEOC) are continuing to work with the police agencies in their respective States to monitor and audit progress against the recommendations in their reports into sex discrimination and sexual harassment, including predatory behaviour among personnel. VEOHRC is also working with the Country Fire Authority and Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

## Human Rights

Aruna Sathanpally from the Human Rights Law Centre talked to ACHRA about her work on Democracy and Human Rights

## Disability rights

ACHRA discussed the National Disability Insurance Agency's Quality and Safeguard Framework, and national roundtables being held on violence in institutions by the Disability Discrimination Commissioner.

## Optional Protocol on Convention Against Torture

ACHRA commends the Australian Government's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) in December 2017. ACHRA welcomes the work of the Australian Human Rights Commission in holding stakeholder consultations on implementation of OPCAT.

## Older Australians

ACHRA is concerned that age discrimination is driving elder abuse and commends the reports of the Australian Law Reform Commission's Report on *Elder Abuse* (2017) and the Australian Human Rights Commission's *Willing To Work* Report (2016).

## Rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

ACHRA heard from Judge Matt Myers about the Report of the Australian Law Reform Commission's *Pathways to Justice: Incarceration Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*.