



Australian Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Geneva

February 11, 2026

PC Admin 15/26 quinquies

The Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and has the honour to confirm the attendees to the 79th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which will be held from 9 to 25 February 2026

H E Ms Clare Walsh (Delegation Head)
Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

H E Ms Emily Roper
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms Victoria Bennett
A/g Assistant Secretary, Human Rights Branch, Attorney General Department (AGD), Canberra

Mr David Higgins
Head of Division, International Climate and Energy, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Mr Andrew Hutchinson
Head of Division, COP31 Operations, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Mr Wayne Beswick
Branch Manager, First Nations Cultural Heritage Reforms, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Ms Tara Williams
Minister-Counsellor International Labour Organization, Department of Employment Workplace Relations (DEWR), Geneva

Ms Ross Hawkins
First Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Strategy Division, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA), Canberra

Mr Luke Mansfield
First Assistant Secretary, Disability Reforms and Royal Commission, Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing (DHDA), Canberra

Ms Sarah Vandebroek
First Secretary Assistant, Online Safety and Classification Division, Department of
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
(DITRDCA), Canberra

Ms Anna Lutz
Group Manager Family Safety, Department of Social Services (DSS), Canberra

Ms Alex Gordon
Minister-Counsellor, Education and Employment, Australian Delegation to the OECD, Paris

Ms Mary Balzary
Minister-Counsellor, Regional Director Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, Home Affairs,
London

Ms Urvi Bhatt
Counsellor Home Affairs, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms Kate Phipps
A/g Group Manager, Country, Culture and Connection, National Indigenous Australian
Agency (NIAA), Canberra

Ms Megan Leahy
First Assistant Secretary, Office for Women (OFW), Canberra

Mr Damian Mullaly
Minister-Counsellor (Economic), Senior Treasury Representative, Australian Delegation to
OECD, Paris

Mr Jamie Cooper
Counsellor (Human Rights), Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms Kirsten Storey
First Secretary (Human Rights), Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

Mr William Baitup
Second Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms Genevieve Bernacki
Gender Adviser, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms Deborah Vethecan
Support officer, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms Dana Rich
Assistant Director, Human Rights Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra

Ms Lou Barnett
Senior Legal Officer, Human Rights Branch, Attorney General Department (AGD), Canberra

Ms Charmain McDonald, Director, First Nations Cultural Heritage Reforms, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Ms Kelsey Guthrie-Jones
Policy Officer, International Labour Organization, Department of Employment Workplace Relations (DEWR), Geneva

Ms Amber Witcher
Director, Office for Women (OFW), Canberra

The Australian delegates listed below will virtually attend the 79th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Mr David Higgins
Head of Division, International Climate and Energy, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Mr Andrew Hutchinson
Head of Division, COP31 Operations, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Mr Wayne Beswick
Branch Manager, First Nations Cultural Heritage Reforms, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Ms Charmain McDonald, Director, First Nations Cultural Heritage Reforms, Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), Canberra

Mr Luke Mansfield
First Assistant Secretary, Disability Reforms and Royal Commission, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA), Canberra

Ms Sarah Vandenbroek
First Secretary Assistant, Online Safety and Classification Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCA), Canberra

Ms Anna Lutz
Group Manager Family Safety, Department of Social Services (DSS), Canberra

Ms Kate Phipps
A/g Group Manager, Country, Culture and Connection, National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA), Canberra

Ms Megan Leahy
First Assistant Secretary, Office for Women (OFW), Canberra

Ms Amber Whitcher
Director, Office for Women (OFW), Canberra

The Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

