CSW62 Side Event

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations in partnership with the Australian Human Rights Commission cordially invite you to

The role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in advancing the human rights of women and girls

Thursday 15 March 2018
10.00am – 11.15am
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations, 150 E 42nd St, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA

Chair
Australian Government representative to be confirmed

Speakers
Ms Kate Jenkins, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission
Ms June Oscar AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission

The Australian Human Rights Commission has key functions in promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls.

This event will showcase the role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in advancing the human rights of women and girls, with a particular focus on the rights of women and girls in rural, regional and remote Australia, consistent with this year’s CSW62 priority theme.

The Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins, will highlight the priority areas for her term, and will provide an overview of the gender equality work being driven by the Australian Human Rights Commission domestically.

June Oscar AO is the first woman to be appointed as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission. June will speak about the project she is currently leading – *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices)* – a national conversation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls to hear their priorities, challenges and aspirations for themselves, their families and their future.

RSVP: [https://goo.gl/forms/CyjKqMr1eSwkJqmh2](https://goo.gl/forms/CyjKqMr1eSwkJqmh2)
Concept note: Proposal for Side Event at CSW62 on the role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in advancing the human rights of women and girls

1. Proposal

The Australian Government and the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) will host a side event at CSW62 on “The role of the Australian Human Rights Commission in advancing the human rights of women and girls”.

The Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins, will provide an overview of her priorities and the gender equality work being driven by the AHRC domestically.

If approved, this will also be an opportunity to outline the AHRC’s partnership with the Australian Government in undertaking consultations to understand the barriers to economic security and empowerment for women in rural, regional and remote Australia.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO, will provide an overview of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices) Project, which aims to elevate the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls across Australia about what is important to them, their key strengths and their aspirations for change. This project also has strong relevance to the 62nd Session’s priority theme.

The Australian Government will facilitate room availability and the AHRC will cover catering costs. The AHRC will also meet the costs of both Commissioners attending CSW62, as well as the Director, International Programs and Partnerships, to support their attendance.

We are also in discussions with the Office for Women, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, to determine whether a representative of the Australian Government will be able to attend and host the side event.

2. Suggested running agenda for the side event

- Opening and welcome: Australia Government representative (to be confirmed) (3 min)
- Introduce the Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO: Australia Government representative (to be confirmed) (5 min)
- Overview of gender equality work the AHRC is undertaking domestically: Sex Discrimination Commissioner (10 min)
- Overview of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices) Project: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner (20 min)
- Q&A (15 min)
- Close: Australia Government representative (to be confirmed) (5 min)