

Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid  
International Plan of Action on Ageing  
Bangkok, 12-14 September 2017

Name of speaker: ~~(Mr)~~ (Ms.) Helen Grinbergs

Country/Organization: Australia

Please indicate the agenda item on which you wish to speak:

Agenda Item No: 3 - Consideration of key regional issues within the framework of the Madrid Plan of Action

If you have a prepared statement, the Secretariat would find it most useful if you could kindly provide us with a copy, preferably in electronic format or hardcopy (typed or handwritten), for use by those listed below:

- Interpretation
- Draft Report and Secretariat

Please indicate if you wish to have statement return to you:

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**Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

**Suggested talking points for Country Statement**

- Australia is committed to improving the lifetime health and wellbeing of Australians and we welcome the continued work being undertaken globally and regionally to encourage multisectoral action towards healthy ageing.
- While common to many regions, population ageing is a particular challenge in the Asia-Pacific Pacific Region.
- Australia has strong foundations across the areas for action identified in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and commitment to its international obligations, Australia has used the Plan of Action to inform ongoing action.
- Australia also strongly supports the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Ageing and Health and is committed to improving the lifetime health and wellbeing of Australians.
- Support for people living with dementia is a focus for the Australia Government.
- In May this year, Australia supported the adoption of the World Health Organization Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017-2025. The Global Dementia Observatory provides the monitoring mechanism to track implementation and progress of the Global Action Plan and will be a valuable resource for knowledge translation and exchange. Australia is among the first countries supporting and sharing our data and resources on this platform.
- In Australia, the proportion of the population aged over 65 years today is 15% and is projected to increase to 25% by 2096. The falling birth rate is also contributing to this demographic shift.

- Australia has taken steps to address some of the fiscal challenges presented by an ageing population, including improving the sustainability of the Age Pension and aged care.
- Since 2012, the Australian Government has implemented a number of changes to help the aged care sector become:
  - consumer centric and focussed on choice;
  - sustainable – to cope with the increasing numbers of older people;
  - market driven – to increase the quality and sustainability of services; and
  - focussed on wellness and reablement – to prevent early entry into residential care.
- We look forward to sharing Australia’s experiences, and learning from the experiences of other countries, in adapting our health care systems and ensuring the sustainability of our long-term care systems in response to this challenge.

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