



Media release

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UN Special Rapporteur exposes human rights hypocrisy

“Queensland Advocacy Incorporated is disappointed but not surprised that Australia has scored so badly on its UN human rights report card” said QAI Director Michelle O’Flynn. She was responded to the ‘End of Mission Statement’ issued by United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mr Michel Forst. Mr Forst concluded his visit and made his preliminary observations in a mission statement this week.

According to the statement, Mr Forst was “astonished to observe mounting evidence of a range of accumulative measures that have levied enormous pressure on Australian civil society”, and “surprised to observe the increasing discrepancy and the lack of coherence between Government’s external pronouncements and implementation of human rights obligations internally”.

“QAI and other disability organizations have been aware that there is a considerable gap between the Commonwealth’s representation of human rights and its track record in fact” said Ms O’Flynn.

“The Special Rapporteur observed that while Australia actively campaigns at international level for important resolutions in support of national human rights institutions, the Australian Commission on Human Rights and its President were vilified by senior officials, and undermined financially at home” she said. “Our Human Rights Commission is constantly under fire from the government and the conservative media”.

“QAI commends the Human Rights Commission for its work, and we call for a human rights act in Queensland. It is not enough to pay lip service to human rights” said Ms O’Flynn. “We need robust mechanisms to enforce them”.

“I call upon our State Government to take the next step to introduce human rights legislation” said Ms O’Flynn.

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