



Australian Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Geneva

24 April 2019

Ms Beatriz Balbin
Chief
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais de Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Ms Balbin

Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Law 2019

I refer to the joint communication regarding the *Criminal Code Amendment (Sharing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Law 2019* (“the Law”) from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (OL AUS 5/2019).

An Australian federal election has been called and is scheduled for 18 May 2019; the period preceding the election is subject to what we call “caretaker” conventions. During this short caretaker period, convention dictates that we not take actions or make potentially sensitive decisions that would bind an incoming government. The Australian Government therefore regrets that standard deadline for this matter of 60 days from receipt of communications will not be able to be met. However, we would hope to do so without undue delay once the election outcome is known and the government is in place.

The response will be provided to the Special Rapporteurs as soon as practicable after the election, but should be no later than 31 July 2019.

I trust the above information is of assistance to the Special Rapporteurs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sally Mansfield'.

Sally Mansfield
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations