

AUSTRALIANS AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

To the Honourable Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister

We, the undersigned support the stance of Robert McClelland, as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, in opposing the Death Penalty in all cases, in all circumstances and in all countries, and for Australia to take a leading role in lobbying in our region for the abolition of capital punishment.

We call on you, and the Australian government, to adopt Mr McClelland’s principled position on this vital issue.

As a signatory to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Australia has agreed to

- Undertake an international commitment to abolish the death penalty.
- To use our position internationally and in the Asian region to encourage abolition.
- To call on our neighbours to establish an immediate moratorium on all executions with a view to total abolition.
- To protect our citizens overseas and ensure any sentence handed is compatible with Australia’s human rights protocol.
- To maintain a strong, clear and principled stance against capital punishment in all circumstance.

Your petitioners call on you to re-commit to an absolute opposition to the death penalty and to actively campaign for its abolition worldwide.

Selective lobbying against the death penalty only in the case of Australians, undermines our attempts to bring an end to capital punishment worldwide, and leaves us open to claims of hypocrisy.

Justice Must Not Kill.

Name	Address	Signature