

## **MEDIA RELEASE**



### **MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS** The Hon Julie Bishop MP

30 July 2018

#### **CAMBODIA'S ELECTORAL PROCESS**

Australia has serious concerns with Cambodia's 2018 national election and has made these concerns known to the Cambodian Government.

The election process, which has included the dissolution of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), the detention of CNRP leader Kem Sokha, and the banning of CNRP parliamentarians and officials from engaging in politics for five years, has reversed more than 25 years of progress towards democracy in Cambodia.

Freedom of expression and association underpin democratic societies. Australia is concerned the election took place in an environment where not all political parties, civil society organisations and media could operate freely.

Australia is disappointed that Cambodian people have been unable to freely choose their representatives.

As a longstanding friend of Cambodia, Australia will continue to urge the Cambodian Government to take steps to allow free and open political debate without violence and intimidation.