ATTORNEY-GENERAL
ROBERT McCLELLAND MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
STEPHEN SMITH MP

3 March 2009

AUSTRALIAN APPOINTED INAUGURAL RAPPORTEUR TO THE
UNITED NATIONS DISABILITIES CONVENTION

Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Foreign Minister Stephen Smith today welcomed
the appointment of Professor Ron McCallum AO as Rapporteur to the United Nations
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As Rapporteur, Professor McCallum will be responsible for reporting to the UN General
Assembly on the recommendations and activities of the Committee on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities.

“I congratulate Professor McCallum on being elected by his fellow committee members to
this significant position to which I am sure he will make an important and effective
contribution,” Mr McClelland said.

Mr McClelland said that Professor McCallum’s election complements the Government’s
commitment to upholding and safeguarding the rights of people with disabilities and to
ensuring that they are treated equitably.

Foreign Minister Smith said that “our strong support for Professor McCallum is another
demonstration of Australia’s regional and international leadership on advancing the rights of
people with disabilities and their families.”

Australia was among the first Western countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of

“Australia’s first explicitly disability-inclusive development strategy, ‘Development for All’,
will play a key role in reducing poverty and hastening progress towards the Millennium
Development Goals, including for persons with disabilities” Mr Smith said.

Professor McCallum is a leading Australian law academic and was elected as Australia’s
representative to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in
November last year.

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