

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA) 2025-2027

DFAT Arrangement: <sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

**This Strategic Partnership Framework hereinafter referred to as the “Framework” is entered into:**

**Between:** the Government of Australia as represented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, hereinafter referred to as “DFAT”.

**And:** the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, hereinafter referred to as “UNRWA”.

**Are:** hereinafter together referred to as “the Partners”.

Pages 2-23 redacted under s33(a)(iii) and s 33(b)

## UNRWA Allegation Tracker

\*\*Green text refers to information that was not received to Australia directly by Israel.

Source	'Dossier' provided	Date	Note
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
Israel Foreign Ministry on X and Cable provided from Ramallah s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Fateh Al Sharif UNRWA principal under investigation killed in Lebanon	No	1 October	Note: Not provided directly by Israel. Tweet and cable saved in EDRM s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			



[Israeli MP claims Australians are 'paying the salary' of terrorists amid uncovered UNRWA links to Hamas commander | Sky News Australia](#)

## **Israeli MP claims Australians are 'paying the salary' of terrorists amid uncovered UNRWA links to Hamas commander**

An Israeli MP has made the bombshell claim Australian taxpayers are funding the salaries of Hamas and Hezbollah members following fresh links to UNRWA being uncovered.

Israeli MP Sharren Haskel has made the startling claim Australian taxpayers are “paying the salary” of members from terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah following fresh revelations regarding the UN's Palestinian refugee agency.

New links to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees have emerged after the killing of a top Hamas commander in Lebanon earlier this week, who has been uncovered as a suspended employee of an UNRWA-run school.

Fateh Sharif Abu El-Amin, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Monday along with his wife and daughter, was placed under investigation and suspended from his job in March after concerns emerged regarding his politics, UNRWA's chief Philippe Lazzarini revealed at a media conference.

However Lazzarini has denied knowing Abu El-Amin was a Hamas commander, saying, “I never heard the word commander before. What's obvious for you today, was not obvious yesterday.”

The Australian government in August [faced scathing criticism](#) over its decision to continue funding to UNRWA despite there being sufficient evidence nine of the agency's staff had links to the October 7 Hamas attack.

In light of the new revelations this week, Ms Haskel argued the Australian government had been warned “for years” about UNRWA's alleged links to terrorism.

“There are thousands of terrorists of Hamas and Hezbollah who are on the paycheque of Australian taxpayers' money. They are paying the salary of those terrorists,” Ms Haskel told Sky News host Sharri Markson on Tuesday night.

She said it was "very simple" for the federal government to check who the terrorist activists working with the agency were, through requesting a list of employees from the United Nations.

"If they just cross them, they know exactly who is a terrorist, but they just ignore it. It's very easy to ignore the facts. It's very easy to ignore the truth when you don't want to accept it. But they know it, they've known it for years," she said.

"And that's why in the past, many governments have stopped funding UNRWA— because they understand that they are funding terrorism.

"On one hand, they declare Hezbollah and other organisations as terrorist organisations, but on the other hand they feed them with Australian money. Which is absolutely absurd. "

The government temporarily halted funding to UNRWA early this year following shocking allegations that at least a dozen employees had links to Hamas' deadly assault.

However, the funding was restored about two months later despite the investigation into the claims not having been completed.

In August, a report from UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini confirmed in nine cases there was sufficient evidence that staff were likely involved in the October 7 attack on Israel.

The employees in question were sacked following the investigation conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, according to the UN agency.

In nine other cases, the agency said evidence obtained through the investigation was "insufficient" to support staff members' involvement in the assault, while in one other case, there was "no evidence" to support the allegations of a staff member's involvement.

The opposition called on the Albanese government to immediately reconsider its involvement, engagement and funding of UNRWA following these revelations.

"It's completely and utterly unacceptable that a UN agency would have employees involved in, or alleged to have been involved in, the October 7 tragedy," Mr Dutton told Sky News Australia in August.

"It'd like to see more information, I think as most Australians would, because Australian taxpayers' dollars are being given to these organisations with an understanding that they're going to provide aid and support to people who are in need.

"And if that turns out not to be the case, then I think the really think the government has a lot to answer to here."