

s 47C(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - This section and pages (4-7) are irrelevant and the following pages have been removed

s 33(a)(iii)

OFFICIAL

MEDIA Q&A

ANZLM 2025

s 33(a)(iii)

- Australia urges an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza
 - civilians must be protected, and all hostages released
 - all parties must abide by international law and rapid, sustained and unimpeded aid must flow to those in desperate need.
- Australia and New Zealand joined 28 other Foreign Minister to call on Israel to immediately lift restrictions on aid and urgently enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their life saving work safely and effectively.
- As I have said, the killing of civilians as they seek food and water is indefensible
 - Hamas must be defeated and dismantled but this cannot be without account for the protection and welfare of Palestinian civilians
 - Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is unacceptable.
- Australia has committed over \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon since 7 October 2023.
- We have consistently opposed expansion of Israeli military operations in Gaza
 - just as we have been clear that forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza would breach international law.
- Australia will continue working with the international community towards a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.

s 33(a)(iii)

- Australia no longer believes recognition can only come at the end of a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians
 - it could occur as a contribution of momentum towards peace it is not a matter of if, but when.
- We must see all hostages released and no role for Hamas in a future Palestinian state.
- We want a reformed Palestinian governing authority that is committed to peace, disavows violence and is ready to engage in a meaningful political process.
- We want to see a commitment to peace in how the Palestinian Authority leads its people.
- At the same time, Israel cannot continue to take unilateral action to entrench the occupation and prevent a viable Palestinian state
 - our longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47C(1) - This section and pages (38-41) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

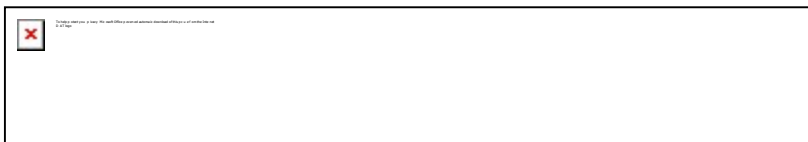
s 47C(1) - Pages (44-46) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

s 33(a)(iii), s 47C(1) - Pages (47-51) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
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MEDIA TALKING POINTS DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS

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Reason for Update: Update Australian aid figure and information about Gaza Humanitarian Fund
Expiry: 31/07/2025

Talking Points

Headline Statements

- Australia urges an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza
 - civilians must be protected and all hostages released
 - all parties must abide by international law and rapid, sustained and unimpeded aid must flow to those in desperate need.
- Australia will continue working with the international community towards a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.
- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza
 - Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas
 - a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required
 - and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.
- As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.

- Australia has committed over \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon since 7 October 2023.
- We have consistently opposed the expansion of military operations by Israel in Gaza
 - just as we have been clear that forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza would breach international law.
- Australia remains unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas' horrific attacks on 7 October 2023 and ongoing acts of terror; use of human shields; and use of civilian infrastructure to launch attacks on Israel
 - terrorist group Hamas must release all hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity
 - Gaza must no longer be used as a platform for terrorism
 - there is no role for Hamas in the future governance of Gaza.
- Hamas must be defeated and dismantled – but this cannot be without account for the protection and welfare of Palestinian civilians
 - protection of civilians is paramount and a requirement under international law
 - the right of self-defence is not unconstrained: force used in self-defence must be necessary to address the threat or use of force and it must be proportionate to the threat that is faced.
- Australia has coordinated with partners in condemning and applying sanctions against Hamas, Hizballah and others for their terrorism
 - we have also joined to condemn and apply sanctions on Israeli extremists for their violence against Palestinians.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Israel-Iran conflict [13 June 2025]

[Refer to the Israel-Iran Conflict Whole of Government Talking Points]

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation [aid delivery controlled by Israel and private contractors]

- *We share the concerns of UN and humanitarian partners about the US/Israel aid model implemented by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)*
 - *appalled by reports of mass civilian casualties associated with aid distribution points*
 - *internationally agreed humanitarian principles must be observed*
 - *the provision of aid must not be instrumentalised for military purposes*
 - *and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.*
- *The UN, ICRC and humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver at the pace and scale required in Gaza*
 - *this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period*
 - *assistance is positioned at aid corridors ready to be delivered to Gaza by the UN.*
- *Israel has an obligation to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*
- *The priority must be getting urgent help to those who desperately need it.*

Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories report to the HRC [17 June 2025]

- *The report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel [presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council on 17 June 2025] represents the views of the members of the commission.*

- *In its National Statement to the Human Rights Council discussion [on 17 June 2025], Australia urged an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, full and immediate resumption of aid, and the protection of all civilians.*
- *Australia has consistently urged all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law.*
- *s 33(a)(iii) Determinations of whether crimes against humanity have been committed are a matter for appropriate courts and tribunals.*

Joint donor statement on humanitarian aid to Gaza [19 May 2025]

- *Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza.*
- *Dire UN reports about the further risks to babies and children in Gaza underline our call*
 - *the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.*
- *The statement released by Australia and 23 other countries calls on Israel to enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their work unimpeded and save lives in Gaza.*
- *Our humanitarian partners have confirmed that they stand ready to provide immediate and lifesaving assistance to the people of Gaza*

Israel reportedly eases block on Gaza aid [18 May 2025]

- *Australia continues to be concerned by the severe lack of aid reaching those in desperate need in Gaza.*
- *As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable,*
 - *a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required.*
- *This recognises the immediacy and depth of need, and that more must be done*
 - *rapid, unimpeded aid must be allowed to be delivered safely and at scale*
 - *we continue to urge the Israeli Government to abide by its international obligations to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*
- *The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners remain best placed to deliver this assistance – they are ready to respond to critical need now*
 - *and do so in line with humanitarian principles – neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence.*

Houthi strikes on Israel

- *Australia condemns the attacks on Israel by the Houthis as well as their ongoing attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.*
- *The Houthis are an Iranian-aligned terror group whose violent attacks in the region have killed civilians, taken hostages and severely disrupted navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, undermining maritime security and global prosperity.*

Killing by IDF of Palestinian Red Crescent Society medical staff [23 March 2025]

- *The deaths of humanitarian workers in Gaza are unacceptable*
 - *aid workers must be protected*
 - *Australia calls on all parties to abide by international law.*
- *It is appropriate that there is a thorough and independent investigation. Those responsible must be held accountable.*

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza on UN premises [19 March 2025]

- Call for swift and comprehensive investigation into the strike on UN premises [19 March] – essential those providing aid are protected.
- And on all parties to protect civilians and redouble efforts to return to the ceasefire and hostage deal.
- Hostages must be released, civilians protected and aid must flow to those in need.

Calls for annexation of Gaza, removal of population and warning of “total destruction and devastation” by Israeli politicians

- Australia condemns any suggestion of the complete destruction of Gaza and rejects any calls for its annexation or for the forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.
- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position has been to support a two-state solution
 - this has not changed.
- Any plan for Gaza will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries and the Palestinians.
- Important now to focus on resuming the ceasefire agreement and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas
 - we acknowledge the tireless work of the US, Qatar and Egypt as mediators
 - all civilians must be protected
 - all parties must abide by international law.
- Australia supports ongoing international efforts to resume a ceasefire and urges the parties to engage constructively in negotiations toward a permanent end to hostilities.
- Australia has long been clear in opposing forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza [*PM Albanese in joint CANZ statement, 13 December 2023*].
- Australia is not contributing to displacement of Palestinians from Gaza it is providing support to Australians and family members who wish to leave.

Trump proposal for US occupation of Gaza

- Note President Trump’s comments.
- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position is to support a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders
 - this has not changed.
- Any plan will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries.

West Bank

- Deeply concerned by violence in the West Bank
 - urge Israel to exercise restraint and ensure the protection of civilians
 - we urge all parties to refrain from actions that risk escalating tensions.
- Australia’s longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace
 - condemn the ongoing settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians
 - reiterate our expectation that Israel hold perpetrators of settler violence to account and cease its ongoing settlement activity
 - we oppose all actions that undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents

- There is no place in Australia for [Antisemitism/Islamophobia/racism], hatred or discrimination of any kind and we unequivocally condemn it
 - and no justification for conflicts on the other side of the world being brought home and changing how Australians treat each other.

- The Australian Government is responding through a range of domestic initiatives to address the impacts of conflict in the Middle East in Australia
 - the government has announced over \$125 million in funding over four years to support Australian communities affected by the conflict in the Middle East.
- The Australian Government has acted strongly to combat abhorrent incidents of antisemitism, including:
 - passing the toughest laws Australia has ever had against hate crimes through the *Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Act 2025* (Cth)
 - convening a meeting of National Cabinet on 21 January, bringing together State Premiers and Chief Ministers to address the rise of antisemitic hate crimes
 - commencing work on a national database covering all hate crimes and incidents
 - appointing Australia's first Special Envoy to combat Antisemitism
 - providing more than \$57 million to improve safety and security at Jewish sites, including schools and synagogues [*For more detailed information refer to the Antisemitism and Islamophobic incidents Whole of Government Talking Points*]
- We will not tolerate crimes that undermine Australia's security or our inclusive way of life.

Australia's voting at the UN [November-December 2024]

- Australia has been clear and consistent about its position on the conflict in the Middle East and the need for a two-state solution.
- Our voting positions at the UN are consistent with our opposition to unilateral actions which threaten peace, support for a two-state solution, and desire to support the ongoing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.

Allegations of IDF use of 'human shields' and mistreatment of Palestinians in detention

- Deeply concerned by allegations IDF units in Gaza are using civilian residents as 'human shields'
 - we have raised these allegations with Israeli counterparts, pressing for an immediate and transparent investigation, and full accountability.
- Since the beginning of the conflict, Australia has repeatedly condemned Hamas' use of human shields.
- All parties to the conflict must comply with international humanitarian law.
- Deeply concerned by Commission of Inquiry reporting [30 October 2024] alleging abuse against Palestinian detainees, including the ongoing and unlawful detention of Palestinian minors
 - we have repeatedly raised our concerns with Israel about allegations of abuse against Palestinian detainees.
- Allegations of death, torture, sexual abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention, as well as the alleged use of human shields by the IDF in Gaza are horrific and must be fully and transparently investigated.
- We continue to press Israel to:
 - grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities
 - protect Palestinian detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment
 - and investigate distressing allegations of mistreatment and deaths of Palestinian detainees.

Allegations of Israel's 'genocidal acts' and use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in Gaza [UN Commission of Inquiry Report 13 March 2025]

- We have been clear throughout this conflict that all parties to the conflict must respect international humanitarian law.
- We continue to press Israel to protect civilians, health facilities and any detainees under its custody, and to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- We remain unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas for its ongoing acts of terror
 - it must release hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity.

IDF detention of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

- Aware of reports that Israel has detained Dr Hussam Abu Safiya [following an Israeli raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza on 27 December 2024].
- Australia has been clear that we expect all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.
- We have also been clear that hospitals, medical workers, and medical transport are essential to life-saving care.
- We expect Israel to protect detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment.

Will Australia suspend defence export permits to Israel [similar to the UK]?

- Australia has not supplied weapons to Israel since the conflict began, and for at least the past five years.
- Australia maintains a robust and thorough export control regime, which requires each application to be assessed on its merits in accordance with Australian export control legislation
 - this legislative framework addresses a range of issues including foreign policy, human rights, national security, regional security and Australia's international obligations. This includes Australia's obligations to regulate conventional arms and its components under the Arms Trade Treaty.
- A permit would be refused if Australia identified an export would be used contrary to the national interest, including violating human rights.

Defence review of export permits to Israel

- Australia continues to scrutinise pre-existing export permits to Israel to ensure they align with our calibrated approach
 - this process is being led by Defence and is ongoing.

How is the Government ensuring that no one from the region with links to terrorist groups will get a visa to Australia?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.
- **s 33(a)(iii)** DFAT provides consular assistance to Australian citizens and permanent residents, and to their immediate family members that have a right of entry to Australia.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD / BILATERAL RECOGNITION

What would be needed for Australia to recognise a Palestinian state?

- Australia no longer believes recognition can only come at the end of a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians
 - it could occur as a contribution of momentum towards peace
 - for Australia, it is not a matter of if, but when
 - a two-state solution is the only hope of breaking the endless cycle of violence
 - the only hope to see a secure and prosperous future for both peoples.
- Australia wants to engage on new ways to build momentum, including the role of the Security Council in setting a pathway for two-states, with a clear timeline for the international declaration of Palestinian statehood.
- We must see all hostages released and no role for Hamas in a future Palestinian state.

- We want to see a reformed Palestinian governing authority that is committed to peace, that disavows violence and is ready to engage in a meaningful political process
 - we want to see a reformed Palestinian Authority capable of representing the entire Occupied Palestinian Territories
 - at the same time, Israel cannot continue to take unilateral action to entrench the occupation and prevent a viable Palestinian state.

Would recognising a Palestinian state reward Hamas?

- No—a two-state solution is the opposite of what Hamas wants.
- Hamas does not want peace and it does not want long term security for the state of Israel nor for the Palestinian people.
- Hamas is a terrorist organisation that has the explicit intent of the destruction of the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) & INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

ICC arrest warrants issued for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant [21 November 2024]

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Adherence to international law is a matter of principle and is in Australia's interests.

Will Australia enforce ICC arrest warrants?

- Don't propose to speculate on hypotheticals.
- Australia will act consistently with our obligations under international law.

Does Australia agree with the decision of the Court?

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Not appropriate to offer commentary on the Court's decision.

Has Australia received a request to take action in relation to the arrest warrants?

- Not appropriate to comment.
- The Rome Statute provides that States must keep ICC requests for cooperation confidential.

US comments condemning ICC arrest warrants

- The US is not party to the Rome Statute.
- Not appropriate to comment.

The rulings of provisional measures in South Africa's case at the ICJ

- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- We respect the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order.
- We note decisions of the ICJ are binding on the parties to a case.

What action are you taking in the wake of the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of the OPTs [19 July 2024]?

- Australia respects the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order
 - we have called on Israel to respond substantively to the opinion [*CANZ PM statement on 26 July 2024*].
- Australia has been firm and consistent publicly and privately that settlement activity is illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.
- The occupation must be brought to an end
 - such that we see security for Palestinians, for Israel, and for the region.
- Just and enduring peace will require the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to self-determination to be realised.
- We want to see Israel respond substantively to the advisory opinion, reverse the expansion of settlements, and respond to extremist settler activity.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [18 September 2024]

- On 18 September 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution that purported to give effect to the 19 July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia is, and will remain, a resolute defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- Australia supports many of the principles of this resolution – but we, and many other likeminded countries had concerns about the final draft we were asked to vote on.
- That's why we engaged with partners to seek changes to the resolution, to address those concerns.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that directly reflected the ICJ Advisory Opinion.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that clearly offered the Palestinian people a path to self-determination – and gave the world a path to a two-state solution.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that gave the international community a clear way to respond to the ICJ's Advisory Opinion.
- We are concerned that by making demands of the entire UN membership that go beyond the scope of the Advisory Opinion, the resolution distracts from what the world needs Israel, and the parties themselves, to do.
- Ultimately, changes we sought to address our concerns were not accepted, and we abstained with great disappointment.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [19 December 2024]

- On 19 December 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's obligations regarding humanitarian assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia abstained on this particular resolution because we did not agree that pursuing this ICJ advisory opinion would make an immediate and practical difference in bringing us closer to peace or to a two-state solution.
- Israel's obligations under international law are clear – they are enshrined in customary international law and reflected in the Geneva Conventions.
- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.
- Australia remains a strong defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- We expect all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law.

Why did Australia not make a written submission to the ICJ on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

HUMANITARIAN

Is Israel's suspension of humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza a violation of international law?

- We continue to urge the Israeli Government to abide by its international obligations
 - including to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance
 - and to comply with the binding orders of the ICJ.
- International courts are considering these matters
 - but it is appropriate for governments to continue to advocate adherence to international law and its protections for civilians.
- Australia has consistently called for rapid, safe, unimpeded, and sustained humanitarian access and assistance to those in desperate need
 - and continues to register its serious concerns with Israel regarding restrictions on the delivery and distribution of aid.

What is Australia doing to protect aid workers?

- 2024 was the deadliest year on record for humanitarian personnel
 - at least 374 aid workers were killed around the world in 2024 [*figures from the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) as of 20 June 2025*]
 - 176 aid workers have been killed so far in 2025 [*figures from AWSDB as of 20 June 2025*].
- The Australian Government is leading a global push to help protect aid workers in conflict zones
 - and, through a new Ministerial Group (Australia, Jordan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil and Colombia), is developing a Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel to galvanise international commitment to uphold international humanitarian law
 - which protects personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting civilians and is essential to the protection of aid workers everywhere.
- We underline that the best protection for humanitarian personnel and civilians is a ceasefire. [*See separate Whole of Government Talking Points on the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel*]

Where is Australia's humanitarian funding being directed?

- Since 7 October 2023, we have committed more than \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon.
 - Our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to help to provide food, water, medicines and shelter.

Providing donations to conflict affected populations

- Those wishing to provide humanitarian aid should do so through established channels
 - there is a risk that donated funds may be misused for the purpose of terrorism financing
 - Australia has listed Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hizballah as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code
 - they are also designated entities subject to counter-terrorism financing sanctions under the Australian sanctions law
 - to mitigate against this risk due diligence is important and proper processes are in place to ensure funds are protected from misuse, are being used towards their charitable purpose and the persons or entities involved are not designated under Australian sanctions law or the Criminal Code

- it may also be an offence to provide funds to any organisation that is engaged in terrorist acts, even if that group is not listed as a terrorist organisation.
- The Australian Government's Terrorist Organisations List and Consolidated Sanctions List can assist the public to undertake their due diligence checks
 - we also recommend reviewing the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website, where possible, to check if a charity is registered with ACNC as well as access useful information on donations more broadly.
- Further information is available on DFAT's website
 - see the Lebanon country page and the Hamas-Israel conflict page.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA)

US backing Israel's anti-UNRWA legislation in ICJ statement

- US submissions to the ICJ are a matter for the US Administration.
- Only UNRWA has the infrastructure to receive and distribute aid on the scale needed in Gaza. It remains the backbone of the humanitarian response.

Israeli Knesset Anti-UNRWA Legislation

- Australia strongly opposes the Israeli Knesset's decision to severely restrict UNRWA's work
 - the legislation will only exacerbate the crisis in Gaza
 - Australia joined Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea and the UK to urge Israel's Knesset not to proceed with this legislation [27 October 2024]
 - and Foreign Minister Wong posted on X expressing Australia's opposition to the Knesset's decision [29 October 2024].
- We have made our opposition to this legislation clear to Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv and Canberra.
- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees.
- The Colonna Review confirmed that UNRWA's role is indispensable and life-saving in providing support to Palestinians.
- No other agency has the mandate and capability to do so.
- No agency or combination of agencies can take up UNRWA's role in any credible timeframe and if Israel persists in preventing UNRWA operating this will directly exacerbate an already dire humanitarian situation
 - as the UN Security Council has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.
- Australia supports a strong and robust multilateral system, including the protection of United Nations agencies to do their critical work.

Australian funding to UNRWA

- Australia has been a consistent and long-standing contributor to UNRWA, making a financial contribution every year since 1951.
- Australia provided \$20.6 million in core funding to UNRWA in 2023-24, as well as \$6 million to UNRWA's flash appeal.
- Australia has committed \$20 million in core funding to UNRWA for 2024-25 from our bilateral development program
 - and is negotiating a new Strategic Partnership Framework to underpin this funding
 - which will ensure stringent controls and safeguards, consistent with Australian law.
- We are monitoring the humanitarian situation closely and are in regular contact with all our humanitarian partners as they assess humanitarian needs, funding requirements and response plans.

Why does the Australian Government fund UNRWA?

- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees
 - without UNRWA, Hamas would control health and education services in Gaza
 - and this would help propagate Hamas' extremist ideology.
- UNRWA is playing a central role in the delivery of humanitarian relief to Palestinians affected by the fighting in Gaza
 - UNRWA facilities are hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons in Gaza
 - and its work will remain vital until there is a just and sustainable solution to the refugee situation.

Colonna Review on UNRWA

- Australia welcomes the report following the independent review into UNRWA and the principle of neutrality, led by former French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna (Colonna Review).
- The Review found UNRWA was "irreplaceable and indispensable"
 - and pivotal in providing life-saving humanitarian aid and essential social services to Palestinians.
- It also found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - it says UNRWA possesses a more developed approach to neutrality than similar UN organisations
 - we welcome the Review's recommendations to further strengthen UNRWA's neutrality policies and practices.
- There was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terror organisations
 - or that there has been diversion of funding.
- We are pleased the UN Secretary-General has accepted the recommendations and UNRWA has committed to implement them
 - Australia will continue to work closely with likeminded partners to support UNRWA in this reform process.

Don't the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) findings [5 August 2024] prove that UNRWA is supporting Hamas?

- The OIOS found there was evidence to suggest nine staff may have been involved in the 7 October attacks
 - it also found there was insufficient evidence to support Israeli claims against nine others and no evidence against one other person.
- We welcome the decision to terminate employment of individuals for whom evidence indicated possible involvement in the 7 October terrorist attacks.
- This process was an important element of the UN and UNRWA's response to allegations made against some UNRWA staff, along with the independent Colonna Review.
- Important to note that the Colonna Review found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - there was no systemic neutrality failure
 - and there was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terrorist organisations.
- The review said that UNRWA was indispensable and providing life-saving services to Palestinians.
- Australia, alongside our partners, continues to push the UN and UNRWA to implement reforms and address findings from the two investigations.
- We are closely monitoring UNRWA's efforts to enhance internal safeguards in support of neutrality.
- Our funding arrangement with UNRWA includes stringent controls and safeguards to ensure compliance with Australian law.

How do we know that UNRWA is not still employing terrorists?

- Welcome UNRWA's decision to dismiss all staff implicated in the OIOS report
 - have made clear to UNRWA that Australia has no tolerance for members of Hamas or any other terrorist group working for the organisation
 - we continue to expect UNRWA to take swift action to investigate any credible allegations.
- Note the independent Colonna Review made no finding that UNRWA's operations had been systematically captured by Hamas or other terror organisations.

What about Israel's claims that hundreds of UNRWA staff / 19% of staff are Hamas operatives?

- Note the Colonna Review did not receive evidence to support this.
- Australia has not been provided supporting evidence in relation to these claims.

Has Australia seen the OIOS report?

- We have been provided with a redacted copy of the report
 - UN reports of this kind would not ordinarily be made public.

THE WEST BANK

Recent Israeli actions in the West Bank

- Deeply concerned by reports of increased violence in the West Bank
 - urge Israel to exercise restraint and ensure the protection of civilians
 - we urge all parties to refrain from actions that risk escalating tensions, especially at this critical stage of the ceasefire.
- The government's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace
 - in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2334 [2016], which determined settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have no legal validity and constitute a 'flagrant violation' of international law.
- Deeply concerned by Israel's decisions in recent months to approve new settlement unit construction, regularise illegal outposts and seize Palestinian territory in the West Bank and call for these decisions to be reversed.
- We continue to urge all parties to refrain from activities that diminish the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution.

Settler violence in the West Bank

- Australia is deeply concerned by ongoing settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank
 - these actions only threaten to inflame tensions and further undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.
- The Australian Government calls on Israel to hold perpetrators of settler violence to account and to cease its ongoing settlement activity.
- The Australian Government will deny anyone identified as an extremist settler a visa to travel to Australia
 - and has imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Has Australia imposed sanctions in response to the 7 October Hamas terrorist attacks?

- Australia has already taken strong action and imposed counter-terrorism financing sanctions in relation to Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hizballah
 - these sanctions are made pursuant to Australia's obligations under UNSCR 1373.
- Since 7 October 2023, the Australian Government has announced counter terrorism financing sanctions on twenty persons and four entities linked to Hamas, Hizballah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Has Australia imposed sanctions against West Bank extremist settlers?

- On 25 July 2024, the government imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.
- The individuals sanctioned have been involved in violent attacks on Palestinians,
 - including beatings, sexual assault and torture of Palestinians resulting in serious injury and in some cases, death.
- The entity sanctioned is a youth group that is responsible for inciting and perpetrating violence against Palestinian communities.

Will Australia impose sanctions against other Israeli citizens (settlers or senior officials)?

- Sanctions are a complex foreign policy tool and just one of a suite of possible measures the Australian Government considers in responding to a situation of international concern.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

The US reversed sanctions on extremist Israeli settlers, placed under President Biden. Will Australia also reverse the sanctions we have placed on Israeli settlers?

- Aware the US have lifted sanctions on persons and entities involved in the undermining of peace, security and stability in the West Bank.
- Our sanctions decisions are made in line with our national interests.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

What do you think about the US's removal of West Bank sanctions?

- This is a decision for the US administration.

CONSULAR**What is the government's travel advice for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?**

- We continue to advise reconsider your need to travel to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism (level 3 of 4).
- We continue to advise do not travel to Gaza and areas nears the border with Gaza, border areas with Lebanon and the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem).
- DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.
- We encourage Australians to subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Departures

- Australia is doing all it can to support Australians and their immediate family members still in Gaza who wish to depart.
- It continues to be very difficult for people to depart Gaza and the Australian Government has limited ability to assist.
- The Rafah border remains closed.
- The Australian Government does not control the border crossings, nor does it determine who is approved or denied departure
- Meeting requirements for a visa does not mean an entitlement to consular assistance; nor does it mean that other authorities will allow people to leave where they are
 - people who obtain Australian visas are subject to appropriate identity, security and character checks.

How is the Australian Government ensuring that none of those being repatriated to Australia have links to terrorist groups?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.

What visa options are available for people from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The Department of Home Affairs is progressing visa applications from people impacted by the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- The government is committed to supporting people who are from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories who have arrived in Australia on temporary visas.
- Anyone who has arrived in Australia on a temporary visa from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not limited to one visa pathway if they want to extend their stay.
- Everyone's situation is different, and the Department of Home Affairs strongly recommends people consider their own circumstances and apply for the visa that best suits them.
- There are a wide range of visa options across Australia's migration and visa programs including family, skilled, humanitarian and temporary visa programs.
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and their families who arrived on a temporary visa and are unable to access standard visa pathways or return, may apply for a Bridging Visa E (BVE).
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on a BVE will have full work rights, access to Medicare, and will be eligible for free Translating and Interpreting Services.

Death of Australian Zomi Frankcom

- The deaths of Ms (Zomi) Frankcom and her six World Central Kitchen colleagues were outrageous, unacceptable and should not have occurred
 - humanitarian workers in a conflict zone delivering aid must be protected.
- Our deepest sympathies remain with Ms Frankcom's family and loved ones
 - Zomi had dedicated her life to the service of others
 - she was an Australian we can all be proud of.
- The government has made clear to Israel its expectation of a full, thorough and transparent investigation
 - and has demanded full accountability from Israeli authorities.
- The government appointed former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, as Special Adviser on Israel's response to the incident
 - he was engaged to advise on whether the steps taken by Israel to ensure full accountability were sufficient and appropriate.
- Air Chief Marshal Binskin's Report is publicly available on the DFAT website

- The Report concludes that ultimately, a failure of IDF controls and violations of standard operating procedures led to the deaths of the seven World Central Kitchen aid workers
 - the government has agreed with the Report's recommendations and is in the process of implementing them.

Australian student Ranem Abu Izneid injured in the West Bank [15 November 2024]

- The Australian Government provided consular assistance to an Australian citizen (Ms Ranem Tareq Abu Izneid) injured in the West Bank.
- Australian officials in Tel Aviv and Canberra have registered our concerns with Israeli officials and sought further information about the incident.
- We have made clear Australia's expectations for a comprehensive and transparent investigation.

s 33(a)(iii) - This section and pages (67-72) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

Handling Notes

Media Interest

These events have a high level of domestic and international interest.

Approval	
Consultation	HPD
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 1:58 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @lists.dfat.gov.au
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MEDIA TALKING POINTS DISTRIBUTION: SENSITIVE

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Talking Points

Headline Statements

- Australia urges an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza
 - civilians must be protected and all hostages released
 - all parties must abide by international law and rapid, sustained and unimpeded aid must flow to those in desperate need.
- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza
 - Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas
 - a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required
 - and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.
- As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.
- *On 21 July the Foreign Minister joined with 27 other ministers to call on Israel to immediately lift restrictions on the flow of aid and urgently enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their life saving work safely and effectively.*

- Australia has committed over \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon since 7 October 2023
 - *our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children*
 - *including to help to provide food, water, medicine and shelter.*
- We have consistently opposed the expansion of military operations by Israel in Gaza
 - just as we have been clear that forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza would breach international law.
- Australia remains unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas' horrific attacks on 7 October 2023 and ongoing acts of terror; use of human shields; and use of civilian infrastructure to launch attacks on Israel
 - terrorist group Hamas must release all hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity
 - Gaza must no longer be used as a platform for terrorism there is no role for Hamas in the future governance of Gaza.
- Hamas must be defeated and dismantled – but this cannot be without account for the protection and welfare of Palestinian civilians
 - protection of civilians is paramount and a requirement under international law
 - the right of self-defence is not unconstrained: force used in self-defence must be necessary to address the threat or use of force and it must be proportionate to the threat that is faced.
- Australia has coordinated with partners in condemning and applying sanctions against Hamas, Hizballah and others for their terrorism
 - we have also joined to condemn and apply sanctions on Israeli extremists for their violence against Palestinians.
- Australia will continue working with the international community towards a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Joint Foreign Minister Statement [21 July 2025]

- *Australia has joined partners in calling on Israel to urgently remove restrictions on aid in Gaza*
 - *and allow UN and NGOs to deliver sustained, unimpeded humanitarian assistance, which stands ready at the border now.*
- *As the PM has said, the killing of civilians as they seek food and water in Gaza is indefensible*
 - *and that Israel's blockade of food and supplies to people who are in need is outrageous.*
- *We continue to urge all parties to cooperate with US efforts to mediate a ceasefire, the best hope of ending the suffering of civilians and hostages in Gaza.*

Israel's restriction of humanitarian aid into Gaza

- *Australia remains gravely concerned by the severe lack of aid reaching those in desperate need in Gaza.*
- *As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable,*
 - *a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required.*

- *The ICJ has issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance as scale*
 - *Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.*
- *We join partners, including the UK, Germany and France, in calling on Israel to abide by its obligations including to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*
- *The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver aid at the pace and scale required in Gaza*
 - *in line with humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence*
 - *this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025.*
- *Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas.*

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation [aid delivery controlled by Israel and private contractors]

- *We share the concerns of UN and partners, including the UK and France, that Israel's preferred approach to aid delivery through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) is not working*
 - *appalled by reports of mass civilian casualties associated with aid distribution points*
 - *internationally agreed humanitarian principles must be observed*
 - *the provision of aid must not be instrumentalised for military purposes*
 - *and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.*
- *The UN, ICRC and humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver at the pace and scale required in Gaza*
 - *this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025*
 - *assistance is positioned at aid corridors ready to be delivered to Gaza by the UN.*
- *Israel has an obligation to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*
- *The priority must be getting urgent help to those who desperately need it.*

Reports of starvation in Gaza

- *Extremely concerned by media reports of civilians dying of starvation in Gaza.*
- *As Prime Minister Albanese has said, killing of civilians as they seek food and water is indefensible*
 - *and Israel's blocking of aid to people who are in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable*
 - *rapid, unimpeded, and sustained aid must be allowed to be delivered safely and at scale*
 - *we continue to urge the Israeli Government to abide by international obligations.*
- *The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners remain best placed to deliver assistance – they are ready to respond to critical need now*
 - *they have food prepositioned in the region sufficient to feed the entire population of Gaza for three months*
 - *and do so in line with humanitarian principles – neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence.*

Freedom Flotilla

- *Aware of reports Australians are currently onboard a flotilla enroute to deliver aid to Gaza*
 - *our officials in Tel Aviv have communicated with those believed to be onboard and are monitoring the ship's movements.*
- *The Israeli Government has a naval blockade in place as stated in the Smartraveller travel advice Australians should not to try to break the naval blockade the Israeli Navy patrols its territorial waters and the maritime border zone.*
- *We are aware that people have previously tried to break the naval blockade along the coast of Gaza their actions caused injury, death, arrest, and the deportation of foreigners, including Australians.*
- *We again call on Israel to comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the unhindered provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.*

Reports of WHO staff detained and installations attacked [20 and 21 June 2025]

- *We are deeply concerned by reports of WHO installations being attacked and staff detained by the Israel Defense Force.*
- *We continue to press Israel to protect aid workers, health facilities and any detainees under its custody.*
- *Humanitarian workers should always be protected as they undertake their essential, life-saving work*
 - *international humanitarian law must be upheld*

s 33(a)(iii)

- *Australia is not funding these WHO installations.*

Israel-Iran conflict [13 June 2025]

[Refer to the Israel-Iran Conflict Whole of Government Talking Points]

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories report to the HRC [17 June 2025]

- The report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel [presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council on 17 June 2025] represents the views of the members of the commission.
- In its National Statement to the Human Rights Council discussion [on 17 June 2025], Australia urged an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, full and immediate resumption of aid, and the protection of all civilians.
- Australia has consistently urged all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law.
- s 33(a)(iii) Determinations of whether crimes against humanity have been committed are a matter for appropriate courts and tribunals.

Joint donor statement on humanitarian aid to Gaza [19 May 2025]

- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza.
- Dire UN reports about starvation of civilians, including children, underline our call
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.
- The statement released by Australia and 23 other countries calls on Israel to enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their work unimpeded and save lives in Gaza.
- Our humanitarian partners have confirmed that they stand ready to provide immediate and lifesaving assistance to the people of Gaza

Houthi strikes on Israel

- Australia condemns the attacks on Israel by the Houthis as well as their ongoing attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.
- The Houthis are an Iranian-aligned terror group whose violent attacks in the region have killed civilians, taken hostages and severely disrupted navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, undermining maritime security and global prosperity.

Killing by IDF of Palestinian Crescent Society medical staff [23 March 2025]

- The deaths of humanitarian workers in Gaza are unacceptable
 - aid workers must be protected
 - Australia calls on all parties to abide by international law.
- It is appropriate that there is a thorough and independent investigation. Those responsible must be held accountable.

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza on UN premises [19 March 2025]

- Call for swift and comprehensive investigation into the strike on UN premises [19 March] – essential those providing aid are protected.
- And on all parties to protect civilians and redouble efforts to return to the ceasefire and hostage deal.
- Hostages must be released, civilians protected and aid must flow to those in need.

Calls for annexation of Gaza, forced displacement, removal of population and warning of “total destruction and devastation”

- Australia condemns any suggestion of the complete destruction of Gaza and rejects any calls for its annexation or for the forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.
- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position has been to support a two-state solution
 - this has not changed.
- Any plan for Gaza will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries and the Palestinians.
- Important now to focus on resuming the ceasefire agreement and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas
 - we acknowledge the tireless work of the US, Qatar and Egypt
 - all civilians must be protected
 - all parties must abide by international law.
- Australia has long been clear in opposing forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza [*PM Albanese in joint CANZ statement, 13 December 2023*].
- *Australia opposes the forcible displacement of Palestinians, the reoccupation of Gaza, and any reduction in territory.*
- *Israel must act in accordance with international law.*
- Australia is not contributing to displacement of Palestinians from Gaza; it is providing support to Australians and family members who wish to leave.

Trump proposal for US occupation of Gaza

- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position is to support a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders
 - this *position* has not changed.
- Any plan will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents

- There is no place in Australia for [Antisemitism/Islamophobia/racism], hatred or discrimination of any kind and we unequivocally condemn it.
 - and no justification for conflicts on the other side of the world being brought home and changing how Australians treat each other.
- The Australian Government is responding through a range of domestic initiatives to address the impacts of conflict in the Middle East in Australia
 - the government has announced over \$125 million in funding over four years to support Australian communities affected by the conflict in the Middle East.
- The Australian Government has acted strongly to combat abhorrent incidents of antisemitism, including:
 - on 21 January 2025, the Prime Minister convened a meeting of National Cabinet, bringing together State Premiers and Chief Ministers to address the rise of antisemitic hate crimes
 - a national reporting system will enable better informed and coordinated responses to antisemitic incidents
 - in July 2024 the Government appointed Ms Jillian Segal AO as Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism in Australia.
 - on 10 July 2025, the Special Envoy released her Plan to Combat Antisemitism which provides a policy-oriented framework to address antisemitism across education, law, digital spaces and community life

- the Government established a special operation to investigate threats, violence and hatred towards the Australian Jewish community and parliamentarians
- we have also provided more than \$57 million to improve safety and security at Jewish schools and synagogues.

Australia's voting at the UN [November-December 2024]

- Australia has been clear and consistent about its position on the conflict in the Middle East and the need for a two-state solution.
- Our voting positions at the UN are consistent with our opposition to unilateral actions which threaten peace, support for a two-state solution, and desire to support the ongoing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.

Allegations of IDF use of 'human shields' and mistreatment of Palestinians in detention

- Deeply concerned by allegations IDF units in Gaza are using civilian residents as 'human shields'
 - we have raised these allegations with Israeli counterparts, pressing for an immediate and transparent investigation, and full accountability.
- Since the beginning of the conflict, Australia has repeatedly condemned Hamas' use of human shields.
- All parties to the conflict must comply with international humanitarian law.
- Deeply concerned by Commission of Inquiry reporting [30 October 2024] alleging abuse against Palestinian detainees, including the ongoing and unlawful detention of Palestinian minors
 - we have repeatedly raised our concerns with Israel about allegations of abuse against Palestinian detainees.
- Allegations of death, torture, sexual abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention, as well as the alleged use of human shields by the IDF in Gaza are horrific and must be fully and transparently investigated.
- We continue to press Israel to:
 - grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities
 - protect Palestinian detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment
 - and investigate distressing allegations of mistreatment and deaths of Palestinian detainees.

Allegations of Israel's 'genocidal acts' and use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in Gaza [UN Commission of Inquiry Report 13 March 2025]

- We have been clear throughout this conflict that all parties to the conflict must respect international humanitarian law.
- We continue to press Israel to protect civilians, health facilities and any detainees under its custody, and to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- We remain unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas for its ongoing acts of terror
 - it must release hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity.

IDF detention of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

- Aware of reports that Israel has detained Dr Hussam Abu Safiya [following an Israeli raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza on 27 December 2024].
- Australia has been clear that we expect all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.
- We have also been clear that hospitals, medical workers, and medical transport are essential to life-saving care.
- We expect Israel to protect detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment.

Will Australia suspend defence export permits to Israel [similar to the UK]?

- Australia has not supplied weapons to Israel since the conflict began, and for at least the past five years.
- Australia maintains a robust and thorough export control regime, which requires each application to be assessed on its merits in accordance with Australian export control legislation
 - this legislative framework addresses a range of issues including foreign policy, human rights, national security, regional security and Australia's international obligations. This includes Australia's obligations to regulate conventional arms and its components under the Arms Trade Treaty.
- A permit would be refused if Australia identified an export would be used contrary to the national interest, including violating human rights.

Defence review of export permits to Israel

- Australia continues to scrutinise pre-existing export permits to Israel to ensure they align with our calibrated approach
 - this process is being led by Defence and is ongoing.

How is the Government ensuring that no one from the region with links to terrorist groups will get a visa to Australia?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.
- **s 33(a)(iii)** DFAT provides consular assistance to Australian citizens and permanent residents, and to their immediate family members that have a right of entry to Australia.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD / BILATERAL RECOGNITION

What would be needed for Australia to recognise a Palestinian state?

- Australia no longer believes recognition can only come at the end of a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians
 - it could occur as a contribution of momentum towards peace
 - for Australia, it is not a matter of if, but when.

- Australia wants to engage on new ways to build momentum, including the role of the Security Council in setting a pathway for two-states, with a clear timeline for the international declaration of Palestinian statehood.
- We must see all hostages released and no role for Hamas in a future Palestinian state.
- We want to see a reformed Palestinian governing authority that is committed to peace, that disavows violence and is ready to engage in a meaningful political process
 - we want to see a reformed Palestinian Authority capable of representing the entire Occupied Palestinian Territories
 - at the same time, Israel cannot continue to take unilateral action to entrench the occupation and prevent a viable Palestinian state.

Would recognising a Palestinian state reward Hamas?

- No—a two-state solution is the opposite of what Hamas wants.
- Hamas does not want peace and it does not want long term security for the state of Israel nor for the Palestinian people.
- Hamas is a terrorist organisation that has the explicit intent of the destruction of the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) & INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

ICC arrest warrants issued for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant [21 November 2024]

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Adherence to international law is a matter of principle and is in Australia's interests.

Will Australia enforce ICC arrest warrants?

- Don't propose to speculate on hypotheticals.
- Australia will act consistently with our obligations under international law.

Does Australia agree with the decision of the Court?

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Not appropriate to offer commentary on the Court's decision.

Has Australia received a request to take action in relation to the arrest warrants?

- Not appropriate to comment.
- The Rome Statute provides that States must keep ICC requests for cooperation confidential.

US comments condemning ICC arrest warrants

- The US is not party to the Rome Statute.
- Not appropriate to comment.

The rulings of provisional measures in South Africa's case at the ICJ

- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

- We respect the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order.
- We note decisions of the ICJ are binding on the parties to a case.

What action are you taking in the wake of the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of the OPTs [19 July 2024]?

- Australia respects the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order
 - we have called on Israel to respond substantively to the opinion [*CANZ PM statement on 26 July 2024*].
- Australia has been firm and consistent publicly and privately that settlement activity is illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.
- The occupation must be brought to an end
 - such that we see security for Palestinians, for Israel, and for the region.
- Just and enduring peace will require the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to self-determination to be realised.
- We want to see Israel respond substantively to the advisory opinion, reverse the expansion of settlements, and respond to extremist settler activity.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [18 September 2024]

- On 18 September 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution that purported to give effect to the 19 July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia is, and will remain, a resolute defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- Australia supports many of the principles of this resolution – but we, and many other likeminded countries had concerns about the final draft we were asked to vote on.
- That's why we engaged with partners to seek changes to the resolution, to address those concerns.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that directly reflected the ICJ Advisory Opinion.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that clearly offered the Palestinian people a path to self-determination – and gave the world a path to a two-state solution.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that gave the international community a clear way to respond to the ICJ's Advisory Opinion.
- We are concerned that by making demands of the entire UN membership that go beyond the scope of the Advisory Opinion, the resolution distracts from what the world needs Israel, and the parties themselves, to do.
- Ultimately, changes we sought to address our concerns were not accepted, and we abstained with great disappointment.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [19 December 2024]

- On 19 December 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's obligations regarding humanitarian assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia abstained on this particular resolution because we did not agree that pursuing this ICJ advisory opinion would make an immediate and practical difference in bringing us closer to peace or to a two-state solution.
- Israel's obligations under international law are clear – they are enshrined in customary international law and reflected in the Geneva Conventions.

- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.
- Australia remains a strong defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- We expect all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law.

Why did Australia not make a written submission to the ICJ on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

HUMANITARIAN

What is Australia doing to protect aid workers?

- 2024 was the deadliest year on record for humanitarian personnel
 - at least 381 aid workers were killed around the world in 2024 [*figures from the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) as of 8 July 2025*]
 - over 200 aid workers have been killed so far in 2025 [*figures from AWSDB as of 8 July 2025*]
- The Australian Government is leading a global push to help protect aid workers in conflict zones
 - and, through a new Ministerial Group (Australia, Jordan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil and Colombia), is developing a Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel to galvanise international commitment to uphold international humanitarian law
 - which protects personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting civilians and is essential to the protection of aid workers everywhere.
- We underline that the best protection for humanitarian personnel and civilians is a ceasefire. [*See separate Whole of Government Talking Points on the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel*]

Where is Australia's humanitarian funding being directed?

- Since 7 October 2023, we have committed more than \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon.
 - Our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to help to provide food, water, medicines and shelter.

Providing donations to conflict affected populations

- Those wishing to provide humanitarian aid should do so through established channels
 - there is a risk that donated funds may be misused for the purpose of terrorism financing
 - Australia has listed Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hizballah as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code
 - they are also designated entities subject to counter-terrorism financing sanctions under the Australian sanctions law
 - to mitigate against this risk due diligence is important and proper processes are in place to ensure funds are protected from misuse, are being used towards their charitable purpose and

the persons or entities involved are not designated under Australian sanctions law or the Criminal Code

- it may also be an offence to provide funds to any organisation that is engaged in terrorist acts, even if that group is not listed as a terrorist organisation.
- The Australian Government's Terrorist Organisations List and Consolidated Sanctions List can assist the public to undertake their due diligence checks
 - we also recommend reviewing the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website, where possible, to check if a charity is registered with ACNC as well as access useful information on donations more broadly.
- Further information is available on DFAT's website
 - see the Lebanon country page and the Hamas-Israel conflict page.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA)

US backing Israel's anti-UNRWA legislation in ICJ statement

- US submissions to the ICJ are a matter for the US Administration.
- Only UNRWA has the infrastructure to receive and distribute aid on the scale needed in Gaza. It remains the backbone of the humanitarian response.

Israeli Knesset Anti-UNRWA Legislation

- Australia strongly opposes the Israeli Knesset's decision to severely restrict UNRWA's work
 - the legislation will only exacerbate the crisis in Gaza
 - Australia joined Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea and the UK to urge Israel's Knesset not to proceed with this legislation [27 October 2024]
 - and Foreign Minister Wong posted on X expressing Australia's opposition to the Knesset's decision [29 October 2024].
- We have made our opposition to this legislation clear to Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv and Canberra.
- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees.
- The Colonna Review confirmed that UNRWA's role is indispensable and life-saving in providing support to Palestinians.
- No other agency has the mandate and capability to do so.
- No agency or combination of agencies can take up UNRWA's role in any credible timeframe and if Israel persists in preventing UNRWA operating this will directly exacerbate an already dire humanitarian situation
 - as the UN Security Council has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.
- Australia supports a strong and robust multilateral system, including the protection of United Nations agencies to do their critical work.

Australian funding to UNRWA

- *As the UNSC has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.*
- Australia has been a consistent and long-standing contributor to UNRWA, making a financial contribution every year since 1951.
- Australia provided \$20.6 million in core funding to UNRWA in 2023-24, as well as \$6 million to UNRWA's flash appeal.
- Australia *provided* \$20 million in core funding to UNRWA for 2024-25
 - and *has signed* a new Strategic Partnership Framework to underpin this funding
 - which ensures stringent controls and safeguards, consistent with Australian law.

- We are monitoring the humanitarian situation closely and are in regular contact with all our humanitarian partners as they assess humanitarian needs, funding requirements and response plans.

Why does the Australian Government fund UNRWA?

- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees
 - without UNRWA, Hamas would control health and education services in Gaza
 - and this would help propagate Hamas' extremist ideology.
- UNRWA is playing a central role in the delivery of humanitarian relief to Palestinians affected by the fighting in Gaza
 - UNRWA facilities are hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons in Gaza
 - and its work will remain vital until there is a just and sustainable solution to the refugee situation.

Colonna Review on UNRWA

- Australia welcomes the report following the independent review into UNRWA and the principle of neutrality, led by former French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna (Colonna Review).
- The Review found UNRWA was “irreplaceable and indispensable”
 - and pivotal in providing life-saving humanitarian aid and essential social services to Palestinians.
- It also found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - it says UNRWA possesses a more developed approach to neutrality than similar UN organisations
 - we welcome the Review's recommendations to further strengthen UNRWA's neutrality policies and practices.
- There was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terror organisations
 - or that there has been diversion of funding.
- We are pleased the UN Secretary-General has accepted the recommendations and UNRWA has committed to implement them
 - Australia will continue to work closely with likeminded partners to support UNRWA in this reform process.

Don't the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) findings [5 August 2024] prove that UNRWA is supporting Hamas?

- The OIOS found there was evidence to suggest nine staff may have been involved in the 7 October attacks
 - it also found there was insufficient evidence to support Israeli claims against nine others and no evidence against one other person.
- We welcome the decision to terminate employment of individuals for whom evidence indicated possible involvement in the 7 October terrorist attacks.
- This process was an important element of the UN and UNRWA's response to allegations made against some UNRWA staff, along with the independent Colonna Review.
- Important to note that the Colonna Review found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - there was no systemic neutrality failure
 - and there was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terrorist organisations.
- The review said that UNRWA was indispensable and providing life-saving services to Palestinians.
- Australia, alongside our partners, continues to push the UN and UNRWA to implement reforms and address findings from the two investigations.

- We are closely monitoring UNRWA's efforts to enhance internal safeguards in support of neutrality.
- Our funding arrangement with UNRWA includes stringent controls and safeguards to ensure compliance with Australian law.

How do we know that UNRWA is not still employing terrorists?

- Welcome UNRWA's decision to dismiss all staff implicated in the OIOS report
 - have made clear to UNRWA that Australia has no tolerance for members of Hamas or any other terrorist group working for the organisation
 - we continue to expect UNRWA to take swift action to investigate any credible allegations.
- Note the independent Colonna Review made no finding that UNRWA's operations had been systematically captured by Hamas or other terror organisations.

What about Israel's claims that hundreds of UNRWA staff / 19% of staff are Hamas operatives?

- Note the Colonna Review did not receive evidence to support this.
- Australia has not been provided supporting evidence in relation to these claims.

Has Australia seen the OIOS report?

- We have been provided with a redacted copy of the report
 - UN reports of this kind would not ordinarily be made public.

THE WEST BANK

Recent escalation of violence in the West Bank

- *Deeply concerned by violence in the West Bank*
 - *Israel must ensure civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected*
 - *urge all parties to refrain from actions that risk escalating tensions*
 - *condemn the ongoing settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians*
 - *reiterate our expectation that Israel holds perpetrators of settler violence to account and cease its ongoing settlement activity.*
- *We oppose all actions that undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.*

Israeli settlements in the West Bank

- *The Government's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace*
 - *in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2334 [2016], which determined settlements have no legal validity and constitute a 'flagrant violation' of international law.*

Advancement of E1 Settlement Bloc

- *Australia's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.*
- *Gravely concerned by Israel's decision to advance planning procedures for the E1 settlement that would undermine the viability of a future Palestinian state.*

- *A two-state solution remains the only path to enduring peace and security for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.*

Settler violence in the West Bank

- Australia is deeply concerned by ongoing settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank
 - these actions only threaten to inflame tensions and further undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.
- The Australian Government calls on Israel to hold perpetrators of settler violence to account and to cease its ongoing settlement activity.
- The Australian Government will deny anyone identified as an extremist settler a visa to travel to Australia
 - and has imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [announced 10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Has Australia imposed sanctions in response to the 7 October Hamas terrorist attacks?

- Australia has already taken strong action and imposed counter-terrorism financing sanctions in relation to Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hizballah
 - these sanctions are made pursuant to Australia's obligations under UNSCR 1373.
- Since 7 October 2023, the Australian Government has announced counter terrorism financing sanctions on twenty persons and four entities linked to Hamas, Hizballah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Has Australia imposed sanctions against West Bank extremist settlers?

- On 25 July 2024, the government imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.
- The individuals sanctioned have been involved in violent attacks on Palestinians,
 - including beatings, sexual assault and torture of Palestinians resulting in serious injury and in some cases, death.
- The entity sanctioned is a youth group that is responsible for inciting and perpetrating violence against Palestinian communities.

Will Australia impose sanctions against other Israeli citizens (settlers or senior officials)?

- Sanctions are a complex foreign policy tool and just one of a suite of possible measures the Australian Government considers in responding to a situation of international concern.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

The US reversed sanctions on extremist Israeli settlers, placed under President Biden. Will Australia also reverse the sanctions we have placed on Israeli settlers?

- Aware the US have lifted sanctions on persons and entities involved in the undermining of peace, security and stability in the West Bank.
- Our sanctions decisions are made in line with our national interests.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

What do you think about the US's removal of West Bank sanctions?

- This is a decision for the US administration.

CONSULAR

What is the government's travel advice for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- We continue to advise reconsider your need to travel to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism (level 3 of 4).
- We continue to advise do not travel to Gaza and areas nears the border with Gaza, border areas with Lebanon and the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem).
- DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.
- We encourage Australians to subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Departures

- Australia is doing all it can to support Australians and their immediate family members still in Gaza who wish to depart.
- It continues to be very difficult for people to depart Gaza and the Australian Government has limited ability to assist.
- The Rafah border remains closed.
- The Australian Government does not control the border crossings, nor does it determine who is approved or denied departure
- Meeting requirements for a visa does not mean an entitlement to consular assistance; nor does it mean that other authorities will allow people to leave where they are
 - people who obtain Australian visas are subject to appropriate identity, security and character checks.

How is the Australian Government ensuring that none of those being repatriated to Australia have links to terrorist groups?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.

What visa options are available for people from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The Department of Home Affairs is progressing visa applications from people impacted by the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- The government is committed to supporting people who are from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories who have arrived in Australia on temporary visas.
- Anyone who has arrived in Australia on a temporary visa from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not limited to one visa pathway if they want to extend their stay.

- Everyone's situation is different, and the Department of Home Affairs strongly recommends people consider their own circumstances and apply for the visa that best suits them.
- There are a wide range of visa options across Australia's migration and visa programs including family, skilled, humanitarian and temporary visa programs.
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and their families who arrived on a temporary visa and are unable to access standard visa pathways or return, may apply for a Bridging Visa E (BVE).
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on a BVE will have full work rights, access to Medicare, and will be eligible for free Translating and Interpreting Services.

Death of Australian Zomi Frankcom

- The deaths of Ms (Zomi) Frankcom and her six World Central Kitchen colleagues were outrageous, unacceptable and should not have occurred
 - humanitarian workers in a conflict zone delivering aid must be protected.
- Our deepest sympathies remain with Ms Frankcom's family and loved ones
 - Zomi had dedicated her life to the service of others
 - she was an Australian we can all be proud of.
- The government has made clear to Israel its expectation of a full, thorough and transparent investigation
 - and has demanded full accountability from Israeli authorities.
- The government appointed former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, as Special Adviser on Israel's response to the incident
 - he was engaged to advise on whether the steps taken by Israel to ensure full accountability were sufficient and appropriate.
- Air Chief Marshal Binskin's Report is publicly available on the DFAT website
- The Report concludes that ultimately, a failure of IDF controls and violations of standard operating procedures led to the deaths of the seven World Central Kitchen aid workers
 - the government has agreed with the Report's recommendations and is in the process of implementing them.

Australian student Ranem Abu Izneid injured in the West Bank [15 November 2024]

- The Australian Government provided consular assistance to an Australian citizen (Ms Ranem Tareq Abu Izneid) injured in the West Bank.
- Australian officials in Tel Aviv and Canberra have registered our concerns with Israeli officials and sought further information about the incident.
- We have made clear Australia's expectations for a comprehensive and transparent investigation.

s 33(a)(iii) - This section and pages (92-98) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

Handling Notes

Media Interest

These events have a high level of domestic and international interest.

Approval	
Consultation	HPD
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 11:38 AM
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MEDIA TALKING POINTS DISTRIBUTION: STANDARD

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Talking Points

Headline Statements

- Australia urges an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza
 - civilians must be protected and all hostages released
 - all parties must abide by international law and rapid, sustained and unimpeded aid must flow to those in desperate need.
- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza
 - Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas
 - a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required
 - and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.
- As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.
- *On 21 July the Foreign Minister joined with 27 other ministers to call on Israel to immediately lift restrictions on the flow of aid and urgently enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their life saving work safely and effectively.*

- Australia has committed over \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon since 7 October 2023
 - *our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children*
 - *including to help to provide food, water, medicine and shelter.*
- We have consistently opposed the expansion of military operations by Israel in Gaza
 - just as we have been clear that forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza would breach international law.
- Australia remains unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas' horrific attacks on 7 October 2023 and ongoing acts of terror; use of human shields; and use of civilian infrastructure to launch attacks on Israel
 - terrorist group Hamas must release all hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity
 - Gaza must no longer be used as a platform for terrorism there is no role for Hamas in the future governance of Gaza.
- Hamas must be defeated and dismantled – but this cannot be without account for the protection and welfare of Palestinian civilians
 - protection of civilians is paramount and a requirement under international law
 - the right of self-defence is not unconstrained: force used in self-defence must be necessary to address the threat or use of force and it must be proportionate to the threat that is faced.
- Australia has coordinated with partners in condemning and applying sanctions against Hamas, Hizballah and others for their terrorism
 - we have also joined to condemn and apply sanctions on Israeli extremists for their violence against Palestinians.
- Australia will continue working with the international community towards a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Joint Foreign Minister Statement [21 July 2025]

- *Australia has joined partners in calling on Israel to urgently remove restrictions on aid in Gaza*
 - *and allow UN and NGOs to deliver sustained, unimpeded humanitarian assistance, which stands ready at the border now.*
- *As the PM has said, the killing of civilians as they seek food and water in Gaza is indefensible*
 - *and that Israel's blockade of food and supplies to people who are in need is outrageous.*
- *We continue to urge all parties to cooperate with US efforts to mediate a ceasefire, the best hope of ending the suffering of civilians and hostages in Gaza.*

Israel's restriction of humanitarian aid into Gaza

- *Australia remains gravely concerned by the severe lack of aid reaching those in desperate need in Gaza.*
- *As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable,*
 - *a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required.*

- *The ICJ has issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance as scale*
 - *Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.*
- *We join partners, including the UK, Germany and France, in calling on Israel to abide by its obligations including to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*
- *The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver aid at the pace and scale required in Gaza*
 - *in line with humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence*
 - *this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025.*
- *Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas.*

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation [aid delivery controlled by Israel and private contractors]

- *We share the concerns of UN and partners, including the UK and France, that Israel's preferred approach to aid delivery through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) is not working*
 - *appalled by reports of mass civilian casualties associated with aid distribution points*
 - *internationally agreed humanitarian principles must be observed*
 - *the provision of aid must not be instrumentalised for military purposes*
 - *and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.*
- *The UN, ICRC and humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver at the pace and scale required in Gaza*
 - *this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025*
 - *assistance is positioned at aid corridors ready to be delivered to Gaza by the UN.*
- *Israel has an obligation to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*
- *The priority must be getting urgent help to those who desperately need it.*

Reports of starvation in Gaza

- *Extremely concerned by media reports of civilians dying of starvation in Gaza.*
- *As Prime Minister Albanese has said, killing of civilians as they seek food and water is indefensible*
 - *and Israel's blocking of aid to people who are in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable*
 - *rapid, unimpeded, and sustained aid must be allowed to be delivered safely and at scale*
 - *we continue to urge the Israeli Government to abide by international obligations.*
- *The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners remain best placed to deliver assistance – they are ready to respond to critical need now*
 - *they have food prepositioned in the region sufficient to feed the entire population of Gaza for three months*
 - *and do so in line with humanitarian principles – neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence.*

Freedom Flotilla

- *Aware of reports Australians are currently onboard a flotilla enroute to deliver aid to Gaza*
 - *our officials in Tel Aviv have communicated with those believed to be onboard and are monitoring the ship's movements.*
- *The Israeli Government has a naval blockade in place as stated in the Smartraveller travel advice Australians should not to try to break the naval blockade the Israeli Navy patrols its territorial waters and the maritime border zone.*
- *We are aware that people have previously tried to break the naval blockade along the coast of Gaza their actions caused injury, death, arrest, and the deportation of foreigners, including Australians.*
- *We again call on Israel to comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the unhindered provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.*

Reports of WHO staff detained and installations attacked [20 and 21 June 2025]

- *We are deeply concerned by reports of WHO installations being attacked and staff detained by the Israel Defense Force.*
- *We continue to press Israel to protect aid workers, health facilities and any detainees under its custody.*
- *Humanitarian workers should always be protected as they undertake their essential, life-saving work*
 - *international humanitarian law must be upheld*

s 33(a)(iii)

- *Australia is not funding these WHO installations.*

Israel-Iran conflict [13 June 2025]

[Refer to the Israel-Iran Conflict Whole of Government Talking Points]

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories report to the HRC [17 June 2025]

- The report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel [presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council on 17 June 2025] represents the views of the members of the commission.
- In its National Statement to the Human Rights Council discussion [on 17 June 2025], Australia urged an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, full and immediate resumption of aid, and the protection of all civilians.
- Australia has consistently urged all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law.
- **s 33(a)(iii)** Determinations of whether crimes against humanity have been committed are a matter for appropriate courts and tribunals.

Joint donor statement on humanitarian aid to Gaza [19 May 2025]

- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza.
- Dire UN reports about starvation of civilians, including children, underline our call
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.
- The statement released by Australia and 23 other countries calls on Israel to enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their work unimpeded and save lives in Gaza.
- Our humanitarian partners have confirmed that they stand ready to provide immediate and lifesaving assistance to the people of Gaza

Houthi strikes on Israel

- Australia condemns the attacks on Israel by the Houthis as well as their ongoing attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.
- The Houthis are an Iranian-aligned terror group whose violent attacks in the region have killed civilians, taken hostages and severely disrupted navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, undermining maritime security and global prosperity.

Killing by IDF of Palestinian Crescent Society medical staff [23 March 2025]

- The deaths of humanitarian workers in Gaza are unacceptable
 - aid workers must be protected
 - Australia calls on all parties to abide by international law.
- It is appropriate that there is a thorough and independent investigation. Those responsible must be held accountable.

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza on UN premises [19 March 2025]

- Call for swift and comprehensive investigation into the strike on UN premises [19 March] – essential those providing aid are protected.
- And on all parties to protect civilians and redouble efforts to return to the ceasefire and hostage deal.
- Hostages must be released, civilians protected and aid must flow to those in need.

Calls for annexation of Gaza, forced displacement, removal of population and warning of “total destruction and devastation”

- Australia condemns any suggestion of the complete destruction of Gaza and rejects any calls for its annexation or for the forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.
- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position has been to support a two-state solution
 - this has not changed.
- Any plan for Gaza will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries and the Palestinians.
- Important now to focus on resuming the ceasefire agreement and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas
 - we acknowledge the tireless work of the US, Qatar and Egypt
 - all civilians must be protected
 - all parties must abide by international law.
- Australia has long been clear in opposing forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza [*PM Albanese in joint CANZ statement, 13 December 2023*].
- *Australia opposes the forcible displacement of Palestinians, the reoccupation of Gaza, and any reduction in territory.*
- *Israel must act in accordance with international law.*
- Australia is not contributing to displacement of Palestinians from Gaza; it is providing support to Australians and family members who wish to leave.

Trump proposal for US occupation of Gaza

- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position is to support a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders
 - this *position* has not changed.
- Any plan will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents

- There is no place in Australia for [Antisemitism/Islamophobia/racism], hatred or discrimination of any kind and we unequivocally condemn it.
 - and no justification for conflicts on the other side of the world being brought home and changing how Australians treat each other.
- The Australian Government is responding through a range of domestic initiatives to address the impacts of conflict in the Middle East in Australia
 - the government has announced over \$125 million in funding over four years to support Australian communities affected by the conflict in the Middle East.
- The Australian Government has acted strongly to combat abhorrent incidents of antisemitism, including:
 - on 21 January 2025, the Prime Minister convened a meeting of National Cabinet, bringing together State Premiers and Chief Ministers to address the rise of antisemitic hate crimes
 - a national reporting system will enable better informed and coordinated responses to antisemitic incidents
 - in July 2024 the Government appointed Ms Jillian Segal AO as Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism in Australia.
 - on 10 July 2025, the Special Envoy released her Plan to Combat Antisemitism which provides a policy-oriented framework to address antisemitism across education, law, digital spaces and community life

- the Government established a special operation to investigate threats, violence and hatred towards the Australian Jewish community and parliamentarians
- we have also provided more than \$57 million to improve safety and security at Jewish schools and synagogues.

Australia's voting at the UN [November-December 2024]

- Australia has been clear and consistent about its position on the conflict in the Middle East and the need for a two-state solution.
- Our voting positions at the UN are consistent with our opposition to unilateral actions which threaten peace, support for a two-state solution, and desire to support the ongoing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.

Allegations of IDF use of 'human shields' and mistreatment of Palestinians in detention

- Deeply concerned by allegations IDF units in Gaza are using civilian residents as 'human shields'
 - we have raised these allegations with Israeli counterparts, pressing for an immediate and transparent investigation, and full accountability.
- Since the beginning of the conflict, Australia has repeatedly condemned Hamas' use of human shields.
- All parties to the conflict must comply with international humanitarian law.
- Deeply concerned by Commission of Inquiry reporting [30 October 2024] alleging abuse against Palestinian detainees, including the ongoing and unlawful detention of Palestinian minors
 - we have repeatedly raised our concerns with Israel about allegations of abuse against Palestinian detainees.
- Allegations of death, torture, sexual abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention, as well as the alleged use of human shields by the IDF in Gaza are horrific and must be fully and transparently investigated.
- We continue to press Israel to:
 - grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities
 - protect Palestinian detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment
 - and investigate distressing allegations of mistreatment and deaths of Palestinian detainees.

Allegations of Israel's 'genocidal acts' and use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in Gaza [UN Commission of Inquiry Report 13 March 2025]

- We have been clear throughout this conflict that all parties to the conflict must respect international humanitarian law.
- We continue to press Israel to protect civilians, health facilities and any detainees under its custody, and to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- We remain unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas for its ongoing acts of terror
 - it must release hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity.

IDF detention of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

- Aware of reports that Israel has detained Dr Hussam Abu Safiya [following an Israeli raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza on 27 December 2024].
- Australia has been clear that we expect all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.
- We have also been clear that hospitals, medical workers, and medical transport are essential to life-saving care.
- We expect Israel to protect detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment.

Will Australia suspend defence export permits to Israel [similar to the UK]?

- Australia has not supplied weapons to Israel since the conflict began, and for at least the past five years.
- Australia maintains a robust and thorough export control regime, which requires each application to be assessed on its merits in accordance with Australian export control legislation
 - this legislative framework addresses a range of issues including foreign policy, human rights, national security, regional security and Australia's international obligations. This includes Australia's obligations to regulate conventional arms and its components under the Arms Trade Treaty.
- A permit would be refused if Australia identified an export would be used contrary to the national interest, including violating human rights.

Defence review of export permits to Israel

- Australia continues to scrutinise pre-existing export permits to Israel to ensure they align with our calibrated approach
 - this process is being led by Defence and is ongoing.

How is the Government ensuring that no one from the region with links to terrorist groups will get a visa to Australia?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.
- s 33(a)(iii) DFAT provides consular assistance to Australian citizens and permanent residents, and to their immediate family members that have a right of entry to Australia.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD / BILATERAL RECOGNITION

What would be needed for Australia to recognise a Palestinian state?

- Australia no longer believes recognition can only come at the end of a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians
 - it could occur as a contribution of momentum towards peace
 - for Australia, it is not a matter of if, but when.

- Australia wants to engage on new ways to build momentum, including the role of the Security Council in setting a pathway for two-states, with a clear timeline for the international declaration of Palestinian statehood.
- We must see all hostages released and no role for Hamas in a future Palestinian state.
- We want to see a reformed Palestinian governing authority that is committed to peace, that disavows violence and is ready to engage in a meaningful political process
 - we want to see a reformed Palestinian Authority capable of representing the entire Occupied Palestinian Territories
 - at the same time, Israel cannot continue to take unilateral action to entrench the occupation and prevent a viable Palestinian state.

Would recognising a Palestinian state reward Hamas?

- No—a two-state solution is the opposite of what Hamas wants.
- Hamas does not want peace and it does not want long term security for the state of Israel nor for the Palestinian people.
- Hamas is a terrorist organisation that has the explicit intent of the destruction of the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) & INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

ICC arrest warrants issued for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant [21 November 2024]

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Adherence to international law is a matter of principle and is in Australia's interests.

Will Australia enforce ICC arrest warrants?

- Don't propose to speculate on hypotheticals.
- Australia will act consistently with our obligations under international law.

Does Australia agree with the decision of the Court?

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Not appropriate to offer commentary on the Court's decision.

Has Australia received a request to take action in relation to the arrest warrants?

- Not appropriate to comment.
- The Rome Statute provides that States must keep ICC requests for cooperation confidential.

US comments condemning ICC arrest warrants

- The US is not party to the Rome Statute.
- Not appropriate to comment.

The rulings of provisional measures in South Africa's case at the ICJ

- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

- We respect the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order.
- We note decisions of the ICJ are binding on the parties to a case.

What action are you taking in the wake of the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of the OPTs [19 July 2024]?

- Australia respects the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order
 - we have called on Israel to respond substantively to the opinion [*CANZ PM statement on 26 July 2024*].
- Australia has been firm and consistent publicly and privately that settlement activity is illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.
- The occupation must be brought to an end
 - such that we see security for Palestinians, for Israel, and for the region.
- Just and enduring peace will require the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to self-determination to be realised.
- We want to see Israel respond substantively to the advisory opinion, reverse the expansion of settlements, and respond to extremist settler activity.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [18 September 2024]

- On 18 September 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution that purported to give effect to the 19 July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia is, and will remain, a resolute defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- Australia supports many of the principles of this resolution – but we, and many other likeminded countries had concerns about the final draft we were asked to vote on.
- That's why we engaged with partners to seek changes to the resolution, to address those concerns.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that directly reflected the ICJ Advisory Opinion.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that clearly offered the Palestinian people a path to self-determination – and gave the world a path to a two-state solution.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that gave the international community a clear way to respond to the ICJ's Advisory Opinion.
- We are concerned that by making demands of the entire UN membership that go beyond the scope of the Advisory Opinion, the resolution distracts from what the world needs Israel, and the parties themselves, to do.
- Ultimately, changes we sought to address our concerns were not accepted, and we abstained with great disappointment.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [19 December 2024]

- On 19 December 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's obligations regarding humanitarian assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia abstained on this particular resolution because we did not agree that pursuing this ICJ advisory opinion would make an immediate and practical difference in bringing us closer to peace or to a two-state solution.
- Israel's obligations under international law are clear – they are enshrined in customary international law and reflected in the Geneva Conventions.

- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.
- Australia remains a strong defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- We expect all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law.

Why did Australia not make a written submission to the ICJ on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

HUMANITARIAN

What is Australia doing to protect aid workers?

- 2024 was the deadliest year on record for humanitarian personnel
 - at least 381 aid workers were killed around the world in 2024 [*figures from the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) as of 8 July 2025*]
 - over 200 aid workers have been killed so far in 2025 [*figures from AWSDB as of 8 July 2025*]
- The Australian Government is leading a global push to help protect aid workers in conflict zones
 - and, through a new Ministerial Group (Australia, Jordan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil and Colombia), is developing a Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel to galvanise international commitment to uphold international humanitarian law
 - which protects personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting civilians and is essential to the protection of aid workers everywhere.
- We underline that the best protection for humanitarian personnel and civilians is a ceasefire. [*See separate Whole of Government Talking Points on the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel*]

Where is Australia's humanitarian funding being directed?

- Since 7 October 2023, we have committed more than \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon.
 - Our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to help to provide food, water, medicines and shelter.

Providing donations to conflict affected populations

- Those wishing to provide humanitarian aid should do so through established channels
 - there is a risk that donated funds may be misused for the purpose of terrorism financing
 - Australia has listed Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hizballah as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code
 - they are also designated entities subject to counter-terrorism financing sanctions under the Australian sanctions law
 - to mitigate against this risk due diligence is important and proper processes are in place to ensure funds are protected from misuse, are being used towards their charitable purpose and

the persons or entities involved are not designated under Australian sanctions law or the Criminal Code

- it may also be an offence to provide funds to any organisation that is engaged in terrorist acts, even if that group is not listed as a terrorist organisation.
- The Australian Government's Terrorist Organisations List and Consolidated Sanctions List can assist the public to undertake their due diligence checks
 - we also recommend reviewing the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website, where possible, to check if a charity is registered with ACNC as well as access useful information on donations more broadly.
- Further information is available on DFAT's website
 - see the Lebanon country page and the Hamas-Israel conflict page.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA)

US backing Israel's anti-UNRWA legislation in ICJ statement

- US submissions to the ICJ are a matter for the US Administration.
- Only UNRWA has the infrastructure to receive and distribute aid on the scale needed in Gaza. It remains the backbone of the humanitarian response.

Israeli Knesset Anti-UNRWA Legislation

- Australia strongly opposes the Israeli Knesset's decision to severely restrict UNRWA's work
 - the legislation will only exacerbate the crisis in Gaza
 - Australia joined Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea and the UK to urge Israel's Knesset not to proceed with this legislation [27 October 2024]
 - and Foreign Minister Wong posted on X expressing Australia's opposition to the Knesset's decision [29 October 2024].
- We have made our opposition to this legislation clear to Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv and Canberra.
- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees.
- The Colonna Review confirmed that UNRWA's role is indispensable and life-saving in providing support to Palestinians.
- No other agency has the mandate and capability to do so.
- No agency or combination of agencies can take up UNRWA's role in any credible timeframe and if Israel persists in preventing UNRWA operating this will directly exacerbate an already dire humanitarian situation
 - as the UN Security Council has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.
- Australia supports a strong and robust multilateral system, including the protection of United Nations agencies to do their critical work.

Australian funding to UNRWA

- *As the UNSC has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.*
- Australia has been a consistent and long-standing contributor to UNRWA, making a financial contribution every year since 1951.
- Australia provided \$20.6 million in core funding to UNRWA in 2023-24, as well as \$6 million to UNRWA's flash appeal.
- Australia *provided* \$20 million in core funding to UNRWA for 2024-25
 - and *has signed* a new Strategic Partnership Framework to underpin this funding
 - which ensures stringent controls and safeguards, consistent with Australian law.

- We are monitoring the humanitarian situation closely and are in regular contact with all our humanitarian partners as they assess humanitarian needs, funding requirements and response plans.

Why does the Australian Government fund UNRWA?

- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees
 - without UNRWA, Hamas would control health and education services in Gaza
 - and this would help propagate Hamas' extremist ideology.
- UNRWA is playing a central role in the delivery of humanitarian relief to Palestinians affected by the fighting in Gaza
 - UNRWA facilities are hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons in Gaza
 - and its work will remain vital until there is a just and sustainable solution to the refugee situation.

Colonna Review on UNRWA

- Australia welcomes the report following the independent review into UNRWA and the principle of neutrality, led by former French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna (Colonna Review).
- The Review found UNRWA was “irreplaceable and indispensable”
 - and pivotal in providing life-saving humanitarian aid and essential social services to Palestinians.
- It also found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - it says UNRWA possesses a more developed approach to neutrality than similar UN organisations
 - we welcome the Review's recommendations to further strengthen UNRWA's neutrality policies and practices.
- There was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terror organisations
 - or that there has been diversion of funding.
- We are pleased the UN Secretary-General has accepted the recommendations and UNRWA has committed to implement them
 - Australia will continue to work closely with likeminded partners to support UNRWA in this reform process.

Don't the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) findings [5 August 2024] prove that UNRWA is supporting Hamas?

- The OIOS found there was evidence to suggest nine staff may have been involved in the 7 October attacks
 - it also found there was insufficient evidence to support Israeli claims against nine others and no evidence against one other person.
- We welcome the decision to terminate employment of individuals for whom evidence indicated possible involvement in the 7 October terrorist attacks.
- This process was an important element of the UN and UNRWA's response to allegations made against some UNRWA staff, along with the independent Colonna Review.
- Important to note that the Colonna Review found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - there was no systemic neutrality failure
 - and there was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terrorist organisations.
- The review said that UNRWA was indispensable and providing life-saving services to Palestinians.
- Australia, alongside our partners, continues to push the UN and UNRWA to implement reforms and address findings from the two investigations.

- We are closely monitoring UNRWA's efforts to enhance internal safeguards in support of neutrality.
- Our funding arrangement with UNRWA includes stringent controls and safeguards to ensure compliance with Australian law.

How do we know that UNRWA is not still employing terrorists?

- Welcome UNRWA's decision to dismiss all staff implicated in the OIOS report
 - have made clear to UNRWA that Australia has no tolerance for members of Hamas or any other terrorist group working for the organisation
 - we continue to expect UNRWA to take swift action to investigate any credible allegations.
- Note the independent Colonna Review made no finding that UNRWA's operations had been systematically captured by Hamas or other terror organisations.

What about Israel's claims that hundreds of UNRWA staff / 19% of staff are Hamas operatives?

- Note the Colonna Review did not receive evidence to support this.
- Australia has not been provided supporting evidence in relation to these claims.

Has Australia seen the OIOS report?

- We have been provided with a redacted copy of the report
 - UN reports of this kind would not ordinarily be made public.

THE WEST BANK

Recent escalation of violence in the West Bank

- *Deeply concerned by violence in the West Bank*
 - *Israel must ensure civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected*
 - *urge all parties to refrain from actions that risk escalating tensions*
 - *condemn the ongoing settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians*
 - *reiterate our expectation that Israel holds perpetrators of settler violence to account and cease its ongoing settlement activity.*
- *We oppose all actions that undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.*

Israeli settlements in the West Bank

- *The Government's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace*
 - *in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2334 [2016], which determined settlements have no legal validity and constitute a 'flagrant violation' of international law.*

Advancement of E1 Settlement Bloc

- *Australia's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.*
- *Gravely concerned by Israel's decision to advance planning procedures for the E1 settlement that would undermine the viability of a future Palestinian state.*

- *A two-state solution remains the only path to enduring peace and security for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.*

Settler violence in the West Bank

- Australia is deeply concerned by ongoing settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank
 - these actions only threaten to inflame tensions and further undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.
- The Australian Government calls on Israel to hold perpetrators of settler violence to account and to cease its ongoing settlement activity.
- The Australian Government will deny anyone identified as an extremist settler a visa to travel to Australia
 - and has imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [announced 10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Has Australia imposed sanctions in response to the 7 October Hamas terrorist attacks?

- Australia has already taken strong action and imposed counter-terrorism financing sanctions in relation to Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hizballah
 - these sanctions are made pursuant to Australia's obligations under UNSCR 1373.
- Since 7 October 2023, the Australian Government has announced counter terrorism financing sanctions on twenty persons and four entities linked to Hamas, Hizballah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Has Australia imposed sanctions against West Bank extremist settlers?

- On 25 July 2024, the government imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.
- The individuals sanctioned have been involved in violent attacks on Palestinians,
 - including beatings, sexual assault and torture of Palestinians resulting in serious injury and in some cases, death.
- The entity sanctioned is a youth group that is responsible for inciting and perpetrating violence against Palestinian communities.

Will Australia impose sanctions against other Israeli citizens (settlers or senior officials)?

- Sanctions are a complex foreign policy tool and just one of a suite of possible measures the Australian Government considers in responding to a situation of international concern.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

The US reversed sanctions on extremist Israeli settlers, placed under President Biden. Will Australia also reverse the sanctions we have placed on Israeli settlers?

- Aware the US have lifted sanctions on persons and entities involved in the undermining of peace, security and stability in the West Bank.
- Our sanctions decisions are made in line with our national interests.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

What do you think about the US's removal of West Bank sanctions?

- This is a decision for the US administration.

CONSULAR

What is the government's travel advice for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- We continue to advise reconsider your need to travel to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism (level 3 of 4).
- We continue to advise do not travel to Gaza and areas nears the border with Gaza, border areas with Lebanon and the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem).
- DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.
- We encourage Australians to subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Departures

- Australia is doing all it can to support Australians and their immediate family members still in Gaza who wish to depart.
- It continues to be very difficult for people to depart Gaza and the Australian Government has limited ability to assist.
- The Rafah border remains closed.
- The Australian Government does not control the border crossings, nor does it determine who is approved or denied departure
- Meeting requirements for a visa does not mean an entitlement to consular assistance; nor does it mean that other authorities will allow people to leave where they are
 - people who obtain Australian visas are subject to appropriate identity, security and character checks.

How is the Australian Government ensuring that none of those being repatriated to Australia have links to terrorist groups?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.

What visa options are available for people from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The Department of Home Affairs is progressing visa applications from people impacted by the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- The government is committed to supporting people who are from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories who have arrived in Australia on temporary visas.
- Anyone who has arrived in Australia on a temporary visa from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not limited to one visa pathway if they want to extend their stay.

- Everyone's situation is different, and the Department of Home Affairs strongly recommends people consider their own circumstances and apply for the visa that best suits them.
- There are a wide range of visa options across Australia's migration and visa programs including family, skilled, humanitarian and temporary visa programs.
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and their families who arrived on a temporary visa and are unable to access standard visa pathways or return, may apply for a Bridging Visa E (BVE).
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on a BVE will have full work rights, access to Medicare, and will be eligible for free Translating and Interpreting Services.

Death of Australian Zomi Frankcom

- The deaths of Ms (Zomi) Frankcom and her six World Central Kitchen colleagues were outrageous, unacceptable and should not have occurred
 - humanitarian workers in a conflict zone delivering aid must be protected.
- Our deepest sympathies remain with Ms Frankcom's family and loved ones
 - Zomi had dedicated her life to the service of others
 - she was an Australian we can all be proud of.
- The government has made clear to Israel its expectation of a full, thorough and transparent investigation
 - and has demanded full accountability from Israeli authorities.
- The government appointed former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, as Special Adviser on Israel's response to the incident
 - he was engaged to advise on whether the steps taken by Israel to ensure full accountability were sufficient and appropriate.
- Air Chief Marshal Binskin's Report is publicly available on the DFAT website
- The Report concludes that ultimately, a failure of IDF controls and violations of standard operating procedures led to the deaths of the seven World Central Kitchen aid workers
 - the government has agreed with the Report's recommendations and is in the process of implementing them.

Australian student Ranem Abu Izneid injured in the West Bank [15 November 2024]

- The Australian Government provided consular assistance to an Australian citizen (Ms Ranem Tareq Abu Izneid) injured in the West Bank.
- Australian officials in Tel Aviv and Canberra have registered our concerns with Israeli officials and sought further information about the incident.
- We have made clear Australia's expectations for a comprehensive and transparent investigation.

s 33(a)(iii) - This section and pages (118-124) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

Handling Notes

Media Interest

These events have a high level of domestic and international interest.

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Consultation	HPD
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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Talking Points

Headline Statements

- Australia urges an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza
 - civilians must be protected and all hostages released
 - all parties must abide by international law and rapid, sustained and unimpeded aid must flow to those in desperate need.
- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza
 - Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas
 - a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required
 - and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.
- As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.

- On 21 July the Foreign Minister joined with 29 other ministers to call on Israel to immediately lift restrictions on the flow of aid and urgently enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their life saving work safely and effectively.
- Australia has committed over \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon since 7 October 2023
 - our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to help to provide food, water, medicine and shelter.
- We have consistently opposed the expansion of military operations by Israel in Gaza
 - just as we have been clear that forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza would breach international law.
- Australia remains unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas' horrific attacks on 7 October 2023 and ongoing acts of terror; use of human shields; and use of civilian infrastructure to launch attacks on Israel
 - terrorist group Hamas must release all hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity
 - Gaza must no longer be used as a platform for terrorism there is no role for Hamas in the future governance of Gaza.
- Hamas must be defeated and dismantled – but this cannot be without account for the protection and welfare of Palestinian civilians
 - protection of civilians is paramount and a requirement under international law
 - the right of self-defence is not unconstrained: force used in self-defence must be necessary to address the threat or use of force and it must be proportionate to the threat that is faced.
- Australia has coordinated with partners in condemning and applying sanctions against Hamas, Hizballah and others for their terrorism
 - we have also joined to condemn and apply sanctions on Israeli extremists for their violence against Palestinians.
- Australia will continue working with the international community towards a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Joint Foreign Minister Statement [21 July 2025]

- Australia has joined partners in calling on Israel to urgently remove restrictions on aid in Gaza
 - and allow UN and NGOs to deliver sustained, unimpeded humanitarian assistance, which stands ready at the border now.
- As the PM has said, the killing of civilians as they seek food and water in Gaza is indefensible
 - and that Israel's blockade of food and supplies to people who are in need is outrageous.
- We continue to urge all parties to cooperate with US efforts to mediate a ceasefire, the best hope of ending the suffering of civilians and hostages in Gaza.

Israel's restriction of humanitarian aid into Gaza

- Australia remains gravely concerned by the severe lack of aid reaching those in desperate need in Gaza.
- As Prime Minister Albanese has said, Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable,

- a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required.
- The ICJ has issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance as scale
 - Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.
- We join partners, including the UK, Germany and France, in calling on Israel to abide by its obligations including to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver aid at the pace and scale required in Gaza
 - in line with humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence
 - this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025.
- Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas.

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation [aid delivery controlled by Israel and private contractors]

- We share the concerns of UN and partners, including the UK and France, that Israel's preferred approach to aid delivery through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) is not working
 - appalled by reports of mass civilian casualties associated with aid distribution points
 - internationally agreed humanitarian principles must be observed
 - the provision of aid must not be instrumentalised for military purposes
 - and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.
- The UN, ICRC and humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver at the pace and scale required in Gaza
 - this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025
 - assistance is positioned at aid corridors ready to be delivered to Gaza by the UN.
- Israel has an obligation to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- The priority must be getting urgent help to those who desperately need it.

Reports of starvation in Gaza

- Extremely concerned by media reports of civilians dying of starvation in Gaza.
- As Prime Minister Albanese has said, killing of civilians as they seek food and water is indefensible
 - and Israel's blocking of aid to people who are in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable
 - rapid, unimpeded, and sustained aid must be allowed to be delivered safely and at scale
 - we continue to urge the Israeli Government to abide by international obligations.
- The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners remain best placed to deliver assistance – they are ready to respond to critical need now
 - they have food prepositioned in the region sufficient to feed the entire population of Gaza for three months
 - and do so in line with humanitarian principles – neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence.

Freedom Flotilla

- Aware of reports Australians are currently onboard a flotilla enroute to deliver aid to Gaza
 - our officials in Tel Aviv have communicated with those believed to be onboard and are monitoring the ship's movements.

- The Israeli Government has a naval blockade in place as stated in the Smartraveller travel advice. Australians should not try to break the naval blockade. The Israeli Navy patrols its territorial waters and the maritime border zone.
- We are aware that people have previously tried to break the naval blockade along the coast of Gaza. Their actions caused injury, death, arrest, and the deportation of foreigners, including Australians.
- We again call on Israel to comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the unhindered provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

Reports of WHO staff detained and installations attacked [20 and 21 June 2025]

- We are deeply concerned by reports of WHO installations being attacked and staff detained by the Israel Defense Force.
- We continue to press Israel to protect aid workers, health facilities and any detainees under its custody.
- Humanitarian workers should always be protected as they undertake their essential, life-saving work
 - international humanitarian law must be upheld

s 33(a)(iii)

- Australia is not funding these WHO installations.

Israel-Iran conflict [13 June 2025]

[Refer to the Israel-Iran Conflict Whole of Government Talking Points]

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories report to the HRC [17 June 2025]

- The report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel [presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council on 17 June 2025] represents the views of the members of the commission.
- In its National Statement to the Human Rights Council discussion [on 17 June 2025], Australia urged an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, full and immediate resumption of aid, and the protection of all civilians.
- Australia has consistently urged all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law.
- s 33(a)(iii)

Joint donor statement on humanitarian aid to Gaza [19 May 2025]

- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza.
- Dire UN reports about starvation of civilians, including children, underline our call
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.
- The statement released by Australia and 23 other countries calls on Israel to enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their work unimpeded and save lives in Gaza.
- Our humanitarian partners have confirmed that they stand ready to provide immediate and lifesaving assistance to the people of Gaza

Houthi strikes on Israel

- Australia condemns the attacks on Israel by the Houthis as well as their ongoing attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.
- The Houthis are an Iranian-aligned terror group whose violent attacks in the region have killed civilians, taken hostages and severely disrupted navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, undermining maritime security and global prosperity.

Killing by IDF of Palestinian Crescent Society medical staff [23 March 2025]

- The deaths of humanitarian workers in Gaza are unacceptable
 - aid workers must be protected
 - Australia calls on all parties to abide by international law.
- It is appropriate that there is a thorough and independent investigation. Those responsible must be held accountable.

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza on UN premises [19 March 2025]

- Call for swift and comprehensive investigation into the strike on UN premises [19 March] – essential those providing aid are protected.
- And on all parties to protect civilians and redouble efforts to return to the ceasefire and hostage deal.
- Hostages must be released, civilians protected and aid must flow to those in need.

Calls for annexation of Gaza, forced displacement, removal of population and warning of “total destruction and devastation”

- Australia condemns any suggestion of the complete destruction of Gaza and rejects any calls for its annexation or for the forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.
- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position has been to support a two-state solution
 - this has not changed.
- Any plan for Gaza will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries and the Palestinians.
- Important now to focus on resuming the ceasefire agreement and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas
 - we acknowledge the tireless work of the US, Qatar and Egypt

- all civilians must be protected
 - all parties must abide by international law.
- Australia has long been clear in opposing forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza [*PM Albanese in joint CANZ statement, 13 December 2023*].
- Australia opposes the forcible displacement of Palestinians, the reoccupation of Gaza, and any reduction in territory.
- Israel must act in accordance with international law.
- Australia is not contributing to displacement of Palestinians from Gaza; it is providing support to Australians and family members who wish to leave.

Trump proposal for US occupation of Gaza

- Australia's longstanding bipartisan position is to support a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders
 - this *position* has not changed.
- Any plan will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents

- There is no place in Australia for [Antisemitism/Islamophobia/racism], hatred or discrimination of any kind and we unequivocally condemn it.
 - and no justification for conflicts on the other side of the world being brought home and changing how Australians treat each other.
- The Australian Government is responding through a range of domestic initiatives to address the impacts of conflict in the Middle East in Australia
 - the government has announced over \$125 million in funding over four years to support Australian communities affected by the conflict in the Middle East.
- The Australian Government has acted strongly to combat abhorrent incidents of antisemitism, including:
 - on 21 January 2025, the Prime Minister convened a meeting of National Cabinet, bringing together State Premiers and Chief Ministers to address the rise of antisemitic hate crimes
 - a national reporting system will enable better informed and coordinated responses to antisemitic incidents
 - in July 2024 the Government appointed Ms Jillian Segal AO as Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism in Australia.
 - on 10 July 2025, the Special Envoy released her Plan to Combat Antisemitism which provides a policy-oriented framework to address antisemitism across education, law, digital spaces and community life
 - the Government established a special operation to investigate threats, violence and hatred towards the Australian Jewish community and parliamentarians
 - we have also provided more than \$57 million to improve safety and security at Jewish schools and synagogues.

Australia's voting at the UN [November-December 2024]

- Australia has been clear and consistent about its position on the conflict in the Middle East and the need for a two-state solution.

- Our voting positions at the UN are consistent with our opposition to unilateral actions which threaten peace, support for a two-state solution, and desire to support the ongoing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.

Allegations of IDF use of ‘human shields’ and mistreatment of Palestinians in detention

- Deeply concerned by allegations IDF units in Gaza are using civilian residents as ‘human shields’
 - we have raised these allegations with Israeli counterparts, pressing for an immediate and transparent investigation, and full accountability.
- Since the beginning of the conflict, Australia has repeatedly condemned Hamas’ use of human shields.
- All parties to the conflict must comply with international humanitarian law.
- Deeply concerned by Commission of Inquiry reporting [30 October 2024] alleging abuse against Palestinian detainees, including the ongoing and unlawful detention of Palestinian minors
 - we have repeatedly raised our concerns with Israel about allegations of abuse against Palestinian detainees.
- Allegations of death, torture, sexual abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention, as well as the alleged use of human shields by the IDF in Gaza are horrific and must be fully and transparently investigated.
- We continue to press Israel to:
 - grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities
 - protect Palestinian detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment
 - and investigate distressing allegations of mistreatment and deaths of Palestinian detainees.

Allegations of Israel’s ‘genocidal acts’ and use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in Gaza [UN Commission of Inquiry Report 13 March 2025]

- We have been clear throughout this conflict that all parties to the conflict must respect international humanitarian law.
- We continue to press Israel to protect civilians, health facilities and any detainees under its custody, and to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- We remain unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas for its ongoing acts of terror
 - it must release hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity.

IDF detention of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

- Aware of reports that Israel has detained Dr Hussam Abu Safiya [following an Israeli raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza on 27 December 2024].
- Australia has been clear that we expect all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.
- We have also been clear that hospitals, medical workers, and medical transport are essential to life-saving care.
- We expect Israel to protect detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment.

Will Australia suspend defence export permits to Israel [similar to the UK]?

- Australia has not supplied weapons to Israel since the conflict began, and for at least the past five years.
- Australia maintains a robust and thorough export control regime, which requires each application to be assessed on its merits in accordance with Australian export control legislation
 - this legislative framework addresses a range of issues including foreign policy, human rights, national security, regional security and Australia's international obligations. This includes Australia's obligations to regulate conventional arms and its components under the Arms Trade Treaty.
- A permit would be refused if Australia identified an export would be used contrary to the national interest, including violating human rights.

Defence review of export permits to Israel

- Australia continues to scrutinise pre-existing export permits to Israel to ensure they align with our calibrated approach
 - this process is being led by Defence and is ongoing.

How is the Government ensuring that no one from the region with links to terrorist groups will get a visa to Australia?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.
- s 33(a)(iii) DFAT provides consular assistance to Australian citizens and permanent residents, and to their immediate family members that have a right of entry to Australia.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD / BILATERAL RECOGNITION

What would be needed for Australia to recognise a Palestinian state?

- Australia no longer believes recognition can only come at the end of a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians
 - it could occur as a contribution of momentum towards peace
 - for Australia, it is not a matter of if, but when.
- Australia wants to engage on new ways to build momentum, including the role of the Security Council in setting a pathway for two-states, with a clear timeline for the international declaration of Palestinian statehood.
- We must see all hostages released and no role for Hamas in a future Palestinian state.
- We want to see a reformed Palestinian governing authority that is committed to peace, that disavows violence and is ready to engage in a meaningful political process
 - we want to see a reformed Palestinian Authority capable of representing the entire Occupied Palestinian Territories
 - at the same time, Israel cannot continue to take unilateral action to entrench the occupation and prevent a viable Palestinian state.

Would recognising a Palestinian state reward Hamas?

- No—a two-state solution is the opposite of what Hamas wants.
- Hamas does not want peace and it does not want long term security for the state of Israel nor for the Palestinian people.
- Hamas is a terrorist organisation that has the explicit intent of the destruction of the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) & INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

ICC arrest warrants issued for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant [21 November 2024]

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Adherence to international law is a matter of principle and is in Australia's interests.

Will Australia enforce ICC arrest warrants?

- Don't propose to speculate on hypotheticals.
- Australia will act consistently with our obligations under international law.

Does Australia agree with the decision of the Court?

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Not appropriate to offer commentary on the Court's decision.

Has Australia received a request to take action in relation to the arrest warrants?

- Not appropriate to comment.
- The Rome Statute provides that States must keep ICC requests for cooperation confidential.

US comments condemning ICC arrest warrants

- The US is not party to the Rome Statute.
- Not appropriate to comment.

The rulings of provisional measures in South Africa's case at the ICJ

- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- We respect the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order.
- We note decisions of the ICJ are binding on the parties to a case.

What action are you taking in the wake of the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of the OPTs [19 July 2024]?

- Australia respects the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order
 - we have called on Israel to respond substantively to the opinion [*CANZ PM statement on 26 July 2024*].
- Australia has been firm and consistent publicly and privately that settlement activity is illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.

- The occupation must be brought to an end
 - such that we see security for Palestinians, for Israel, and for the region.
- Just and enduring peace will require the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to self-determination to be realised.
- We want to see Israel respond substantively to the advisory opinion, reverse the expansion of settlements, and respond to extremist settler activity.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [18 September 2024]

- On 18 September 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution that purported to give effect to the 19 July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia is, and will remain, a resolute defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- Australia supports many of the principles of this resolution – but we, and many other likeminded countries had concerns about the final draft we were asked to vote on.
- That's why we engaged with partners to seek changes to the resolution, to address those concerns.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that directly reflected the ICJ Advisory Opinion.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that clearly offered the Palestinian people a path to self-determination – and gave the world a path to a two-state solution.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that gave the international community a clear way to respond to the ICJ's Advisory Opinion.
- We are concerned that by making demands of the entire UN membership that go beyond the scope of the Advisory Opinion, the resolution distracts from what the world needs Israel, and the parties themselves, to do.
- Ultimately, changes we sought to address our concerns were not accepted, and we abstained with great disappointment.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [19 December 2024]

- On 19 December 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's obligations regarding humanitarian assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia abstained on this particular resolution because we did not agree that pursuing this ICJ advisory opinion would make an immediate and practical difference in bringing us closer to peace or to a two-state solution.
- Israel's obligations under international law are clear – they are enshrined in customary international law and reflected in the Geneva Conventions.
- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.
- Australia remains a strong defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- We expect all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law.

Why did Australia not make a written submission to the ICJ on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

HUMANITARIAN

What is Australia doing to protect aid workers?

- 2024 was the deadliest year on record for humanitarian personnel
 - at least 381 aid workers were killed around the world in 2024 [*figures from the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) as of 8 July 2025*]
 - over 200 aid workers have been killed so far in 2025 [*figures from AWSDB as of 8 July 2025*]
- The Australian Government is leading a global push to help protect aid workers in conflict zones
 - and, through a new Ministerial Group (Australia, Jordan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil and Colombia), is developing a Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel to galvanise international commitment to uphold international humanitarian law
 - which protects personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting civilians and is essential to the protection of aid workers everywhere.
- We underline that the best protection for humanitarian personnel and civilians is a ceasefire. [*See separate Whole of Government Talking Points on the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel*]

Where is Australia's humanitarian funding being directed?

- Since 7 October 2023, we have committed more than \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon.
 - Our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to help to provide food, water, medicines and shelter.

Providing donations to conflict affected populations

- Those wishing to provide humanitarian aid should do so through established channels
 - there is a risk that donated funds may be misused for the purpose of terrorism financing
 - Australia has listed Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hizballah as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code
 - they are also designated entities subject to counter-terrorism financing sanctions under the Australian sanctions law
 - to mitigate against this risk due diligence is important and proper processes are in place to ensure funds are protected from misuse, are being used towards their charitable purpose and the persons or entities involved are not designated under Australian sanctions law or the Criminal Code
 - it may also be an offence to provide funds to any organisation that is engaged in terrorist acts, even if that group is not listed as a terrorist organisation.
- The Australian Government's Terrorist Organisations List and Consolidated Sanctions List can assist the public to undertake their due diligence checks
 - we also recommend reviewing the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website, where possible, to check if a charity is registered with ACNC as well as access useful information on donations more broadly.
- Further information is available on DFAT's website
 - see the Lebanon country page and the Hamas-Israel conflict page.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA)

US backing Israel's anti-UNRWA legislation in ICJ statement

- US submissions to the ICJ are a matter for the US Administration.
- Only UNRWA has the infrastructure to receive and distribute aid on the scale needed in Gaza. It remains the backbone of the humanitarian response.

Israeli Knesset Anti-UNRWA Legislation

- Australia strongly opposes the Israeli Knesset's decision to severely restrict UNRWA's work
 - the legislation will only exacerbate the crisis in Gaza
 - Australia joined Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea and the UK to urge Israel's Knesset not to proceed with this legislation [27 October 2024]
 - and Foreign Minister Wong posted on X expressing Australia's opposition to the Knesset's decision [29 October 2024].
- We have made our opposition to this legislation clear to Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv and Canberra.
- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees.
- The Colonna Review confirmed that UNRWA's role is indispensable and life-saving in providing support to Palestinians.
- No other agency has the mandate and capability to do so.
- No agency or combination of agencies can take up UNRWA's role in any credible timeframe and if Israel persists in preventing UNRWA operating this will directly exacerbate an already dire humanitarian situation
 - as the UN Security Council has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.
- Australia supports a strong and robust multilateral system, including the protection of United Nations agencies to do their critical work.

Australian funding to UNRWA

- As the UNSC has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.
- Australia has been a consistent and long-standing contributor to UNRWA, making a financial contribution every year since 1951.
- Australia provided \$20.6 million in core funding to UNRWA in 2023-24, as well as \$6 million to UNRWA's flash appeal.
- Australia *provided* \$20 million in core funding to UNRWA for 2024-25
 - and *has signed* a new Strategic Partnership Framework to underpin this funding
 - which ensures stringent controls and safeguards, consistent with Australian law.
- We are monitoring the humanitarian situation closely and are in regular contact with all our humanitarian partners as they assess humanitarian needs, funding requirements and response plans.

Why does the Australian Government fund UNRWA?

- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees
 - without UNRWA, Hamas would control health and education services in Gaza
 - and this would help propagate Hamas' extremist ideology.
- UNRWA is playing a central role in the delivery of humanitarian relief to Palestinians affected by the fighting in Gaza
 - UNRWA facilities are hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons in Gaza
 - and its work will remain vital until there is a just and sustainable solution to the refugee situation.

Colonna Review on UNRWA

- Australia welcomes the report following the independent review into UNRWA and the principle of neutrality, led by former French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna (Colonna Review).
- The Review found UNRWA was “irreplaceable and indispensable”
 - and pivotal in providing life-saving humanitarian aid and essential social services to Palestinians.
- It also found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - it says UNRWA possesses a more developed approach to neutrality than similar UN organisations
 - we welcome the Review’s recommendations to further strengthen UNRWA’s neutrality policies and practices.
- There was no finding that UNRWA’s operations have been captured by Hamas or other terror organisations
 - or that there has been diversion of funding.
- We are pleased the UN Secretary-General has accepted the recommendations and UNRWA has committed to implement them
 - Australia will continue to work closely with likeminded partners to support UNRWA in this reform process.

Don’t the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) findings [5 August 2024] prove that UNRWA is supporting Hamas?

- The OIOS found there was evidence to suggest nine staff may have been involved in the 7 October attacks
 - it also found there was insufficient evidence to support Israeli claims against nine others and no evidence against one other person.
- We welcome the decision to terminate employment of individuals for whom evidence indicated possible involvement in the 7 October terrorist attacks.
- This process was an important element of the UN and UNRWA’s response to allegations made against some UNRWA staff, along with the independent Colonna Review.
- Important to note that the Colonna Review found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - there was no systemic neutrality failure
 - and there was no finding that UNRWA’s operations have been captured by Hamas or other terrorist organisations.
- The review said that UNRWA was indispensable and providing life-saving services to Palestinians.
- Australia, alongside our partners, continues to push the UN and UNRWA to implement reforms and address findings from the two investigations.
- We are closely monitoring UNRWA’s efforts to enhance internal safeguards in support of neutrality.
- Our funding arrangement with UNRWA includes stringent controls and safeguards to ensure compliance with Australian law.

How do we know that UNRWA is not still employing terrorists?

- Welcome UNRWA’s decision to dismiss all staff implicated in the OIOS report
 - have made clear to UNRWA that Australia has no tolerance for members of Hamas or any other terrorist group working for the organisation
 - we continue to expect UNRWA to take swift action to investigate any credible allegations.
- Note the independent Colonna Review made no finding that UNRWA’s operations had been systematically captured by Hamas or other terror organisations.

What about Israel’s claims that hundreds of UNRWA staff / 19% of staff are Hamas operatives?

- Note the Colonna Review did not receive evidence to support this.
- Australia has not been provided supporting evidence in relation to these claims.

Has Australia seen the OIOS report?

- We have been provided with a redacted copy of the report
 - UN reports of this kind would not ordinarily be made public.

THE WEST BANK

Recent escalation of violence in the West Bank

- Deeply concerned by violence in the West Bank
 - Israel must ensure civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected
 - urge all parties to refrain from actions that risk escalating tensions
 - condemn the ongoing settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians
 - reiterate our expectation that Israel holds perpetrators of settler violence to account and cease its ongoing settlement activity.
- We oppose all actions that undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.

Israeli settlements in the West Bank

- The Government's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace
 - in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2334 [2016], which determined settlements have no legal validity and constitute a 'flagrant violation' of international law.

Advancement of E1 Settlement Bloc

- Australia's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.
- Gravely concerned by Israel's decision to advance planning procedures for the E1 settlement that would undermine the viability of a future Palestinian state.
- A two-state solution remains the only path to enduring peace and security for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

Settler violence in the West Bank

- Australia is deeply concerned by ongoing settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank
 - these actions only threaten to inflame tensions and further undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.
- The Australian Government calls on Israel to hold perpetrators of settler violence to account and to cease its ongoing settlement activity.
- The Australian Government will deny anyone identified as an extremist settler a visa to travel to Australia
 - and has imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [announced 10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Has Australia imposed sanctions in response to the 7 October Hamas terrorist attacks?

- Australia has already taken strong action and imposed counter-terrorism financing sanctions in relation to Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hizballah
 - these sanctions are made pursuant to Australia's obligations under UNSCR 1373.
- Since 7 October 2023, the Australian Government has announced counter terrorism financing sanctions on twenty persons and four entities linked to Hamas, Hizballah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Has Australia imposed sanctions against West Bank extremist settlers?

- On 25 July 2024, the government imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.
- The individuals sanctioned have been involved in violent attacks on Palestinians,
 - including beatings, sexual assault and torture of Palestinians resulting in serious injury and in some cases, death.
- The entity sanctioned is a youth group that is responsible for inciting and perpetrating violence against Palestinian communities.

Will Australia impose sanctions against other Israeli citizens (settlers or senior officials)?

- Sanctions are a complex foreign policy tool and just one of a suite of possible measures the Australian Government considers in responding to a situation of international concern.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

The US reversed sanctions on extremist Israeli settlers, placed under President Biden. Will Australia also reverse the sanctions we have placed on Israeli settlers?

- Aware the US have lifted sanctions on persons and entities involved in the undermining of peace, security and stability in the West Bank.
- Our sanctions decisions are made in line with our national interests.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

What do you think about the US's removal of West Bank sanctions?

- This is a decision for the US administration.

CONSULAR**What is the government's travel advice for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?**

- We continue to advise reconsider your need to travel to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism (level 3 of 4).
- We continue to advise do not travel to Gaza and areas nears the border with Gaza, border areas with Lebanon and the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem).

- DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.
- We encourage Australians to subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Departures

- Australia is doing all it can to support Australians and their immediate family members still in Gaza who wish to depart.
- It continues to be very difficult for people to depart Gaza and the Australian Government has limited ability to assist.
- The Rafah border remains closed.
- The Australian Government does not control the border crossings, nor does it determine who is approved or denied departure
- Meeting requirements for a visa does not mean an entitlement to consular assistance; nor does it mean that other authorities will allow people to leave where they are
 - people who obtain Australian visas are subject to appropriate identity, security and character checks.

How is the Australian Government ensuring that none of those being repatriated to Australia have links to terrorist groups?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.

What visa options are available for people from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The Department of Home Affairs is progressing visa applications from people impacted by the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- The government is committed to supporting people who are from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories who have arrived in Australia on temporary visas.
- Anyone who has arrived in Australia on a temporary visa from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not limited to one visa pathway if they want to extend their stay.
- Everyone's situation is different, and the Department of Home Affairs strongly recommends people consider their own circumstances and apply for the visa that best suits them.
- There are a wide range of visa options across Australia's migration and visa programs including family, skilled, humanitarian and temporary visa programs.
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and their families who arrived on a temporary visa and are unable to access standard visa pathways or return, may apply for a Bridging Visa E (BVE).
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on a BVE will have full work rights, access to Medicare, and will be eligible for free Translating and Interpreting Services.

Death of Australian Zomi Frankcom

- The deaths of Ms (Zomi) Frankcom and her six World Central Kitchen colleagues were outrageous, unacceptable and should not have occurred
 - humanitarian workers in a conflict zone delivering aid must be protected.
- Our deepest sympathies remain with Ms Frankcom's family and loved ones
 - Zomi had dedicated her life to the service of others
 - she was an Australian we can all be proud of.

- The government has made clear to Israel its expectation of a full, thorough and transparent investigation
 - and has demanded full accountability from Israeli authorities.
- The government appointed former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, as Special Adviser on Israel's response to the incident
 - he was engaged to advise on whether the steps taken by Israel to ensure full accountability were sufficient and appropriate.
- Air Chief Marshal Binskin's Report is publicly available on the DFAT website
- The Report concludes that ultimately, a failure of IDF controls and violations of standard operating procedures led to the deaths of the seven World Central Kitchen aid workers
 - the government has agreed with the Report's recommendations and is in the process of implementing them.

Australian student Ranem Abu Izneid injured in the West Bank [15 November 2024]

- The Australian Government provided consular assistance to an Australian citizen (Ms Ranem Tareq Abu Izneid) injured in the West Bank.
- Australian officials in Tel Aviv and Canberra have registered our concerns with Israeli officials and sought further information about the incident.
- We have made clear Australia's expectations for a comprehensive and transparent investigation.

s 33(a)(iii) - This section and pages (144-150) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

Handling Notes

Media Interest

These events have a high level of domestic and international interest.

Approval	
Consultation	HPD
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Talking Points

Headline Statements

- Australia urges an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza
 - civilians must be protected and all hostages released
 - all parties must abide by international law and rapid, sustained and unimpeded aid must flow to those in desperate need.
- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza
 - Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas
 - a significant, unimpeded and sustained scale-up is required
 - and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.
- Israel's blocking of aid to people in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.
- *As Prime Minister Albanese said, every effort must be made to safeguard innocent life and end the suffering and starvation of the people of Gaza.*
- On 21 July the Foreign Minister joined with 29 other ministers to call on Israel to immediately lift restrictions on the flow of aid and urgently enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their life saving work safely and effectively.

- Australia has committed over \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon since 7 October 2023
 - our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to help to provide food, water, medicine and shelter.
- We have consistently opposed the expansion of military operations by Israel in Gaza
 - just as we have been clear that forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza would breach international law.
- Australia remains unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas' horrific attacks on 7 October 2023 and ongoing acts of terror; use of human shields; and use of civilian infrastructure to launch attacks on Israel
 - terrorist group Hamas must release all hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity
 - Gaza must no longer be used as a platform for terrorism there is no role for Hamas in the future governance of Gaza.
- Hamas must be defeated and dismantled – but this cannot be without account for the protection and welfare of Palestinian civilians
 - protection of civilians is paramount and a requirement under international law
 - the right of self-defence is not unconstrained: force used in self-defence must be necessary to address the threat or use of force and it must be proportionate to the threat that is faced.
- Australia has coordinated with partners in condemning and applying sanctions against Hamas, Hizballah and others for their terrorism
 - we have also joined to condemn and apply sanctions on Israeli extremists for their violence against Palestinians.
- Australia will continue working with the international community towards a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Reports that the US and Israel are withdrawing from ceasefire negotiations [25 July 2025]

- *Australia supports ongoing international efforts to resume the ceasefire*
 - *and urges the parties to engage constructively in negotiations toward a permanent end to hostilities.*
- *We acknowledge the tireless work of the US, Qatar and Egypt.*

Joint Foreign Minister Statement [21 July 2025]

- Australia has joined partners in calling on Israel to urgently remove restrictions on aid in Gaza
 - and allow UN and NGOs to deliver sustained, unimpeded humanitarian assistance, which stands ready at the border now.
- As the PM has said, the killing of civilians as they seek food and water in Gaza is indefensible
 - and that Israel's blockade of food and supplies to people who are in need is outrageous.
- We continue to urge all parties to cooperate with US efforts to mediate a ceasefire, the best hope of ending the suffering of civilians and hostages in Gaza.

Israel's restriction of humanitarian aid into Gaza

- Australia remains gravely concerned by the severe lack of aid reaching those in desperate need in Gaza.
- *Welcome announcement by Israel of humanitarian corridors to enable the UN to deliver critical food aid*
 - *Israel has an obligation to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*

- *Overland delivery is the most effective way to address humanitarian need at scale*
 - *the UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners are ready now with food and other aid prepositioned outside Gaza*
 - *this option means partners can deliver at the pace and scale required to address the crisis.*
- *Air drops will be insufficient to address need at the scale required.*
- The ICJ has issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance as scale
 - Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.
- We join partners, including the UK, Germany and France, in calling on Israel to abide by its obligations including to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver aid at the pace and scale required in Gaza
 - in line with humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence
 - this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025.
- Palestinian civilians cannot pay the price of defeating Hamas.

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation [aid delivery controlled by Israel and private contractors]

- We share the concerns of UN and partners, including the UK and France, that Israel's preferred approach to aid delivery through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) is not working
 - appalled by reports of mass civilian casualties associated with aid distribution points
 - internationally agreed humanitarian principles must be observed
 - the provision of aid must not be instrumentalised for military purposes
 - and aid workers must be protected to enable their lifesaving work.
- The UN, ICRC and humanitarian partners are ready now and are the only option to deliver at the pace and scale required in Gaza
 - this was demonstrated during the ceasefire period in early 2025
 - assistance is positioned at aid corridors ready to be delivered to Gaza by the UN.
- Israel has an obligation to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- The priority must be getting urgent help to those who desperately need it.

Reports of starvation in Gaza

- Extremely concerned by media reports of civilians dying of starvation in Gaza.
- As Prime Minister Albanese has said, killing of civilians as they seek food and water is indefensible
 - and Israel's blocking of aid to people who are in need in Gaza is completely unacceptable
 - rapid, unimpeded, and sustained aid must be allowed to be delivered safely and at scale
 - we continue to urge the Israeli Government to abide by international obligations.
- The UN, ICRC and their humanitarian partners remain best placed to deliver assistance – they are ready to respond to critical need now
 - they have food prepositioned in the region sufficient to feed the entire population of Gaza for three months
 - and do so in line with humanitarian principles – neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence.

Freedom Flotilla

- *Aware of reports that the Freedom Flotilla Coalition vessel Handala was intercepted by the Israel Defense Forces in international waters off the coast of Gaza.*
- *DFAT is providing consular assistance to two Australians detained in Israel.*
- The Israeli Government has a naval blockade in place
 - as stated in the Smartraveller travel advice Australians should not to try to break the naval blockade

- the Israeli Navy patrols its territorial waters and the maritime border zone.
- We are aware that people have previously tried to break the naval blockade along the coast of Gaza their actions caused injury, death, arrest, and the deportation of
 - foreigners, including Australians.
- We again call on Israel to comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the unhindered provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

Reports of WHO staff detained and installations attacked [20 and 21 June 2025]

- We are deeply concerned by reports of WHO installations being attacked and staff detained by the Israel Defense Force.
- We continue to press Israel to protect aid workers, health facilities and any detainees under its custody.
- Humanitarian workers should always be protected as they undertake their essential, life-saving work
- [○] s 33(a)(iii) international humanitarian law must be upheld
- Australia is not funding these WHO installations.

Israel-Iran conflict [13 June 2025]

[Refer to the Israel-Iran Conflict Whole of Government Talking Points]

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories report to the HRC [17 June 2025]

- The report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel [presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council on 17 June 2025] represents the views of the members of the commission.
- In its National Statement to the Human Rights Council discussion [on 17 June 2025], Australia urged an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, full and immediate resumption of aid, and the protection of all civilians.
- Australia has consistently urged all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law.
- Determinations of whether crimes against humanity have been committed are a matter for appropriate courts and tribunals.

Joint donor statement on humanitarian aid to Gaza [19 May 2025]

- Australia joins international partners in calling on Israel to allow a full and immediate resumption of aid to Gaza.
- Dire UN reports about starvation of civilians, including children, underline our call
 - the Israeli Government cannot allow the suffering to continue.
- The statement released by Australia and 23 other countries calls on Israel to enable the UN and humanitarian organisations to do their work unimpeded and save lives in Gaza.
- Our humanitarian partners have confirmed that they stand ready to provide immediate and lifesaving assistance to the people of Gaza

Houthi strikes on Israel

- Australia condemns the attacks on Israel by the Houthis as well as their ongoing attacks in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

- The Houthis are an Iranian-aligned terror group whose violent attacks in the region have killed civilians, taken hostages and severely disrupted navigational rights and freedoms in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula, undermining maritime security and global prosperity.

Killing by IDF of Palestinian Crescent Society medical staff [23 March 2025]

- The deaths of humanitarian workers in Gaza are unacceptable
 - aid workers must be protected
 - Australia calls on all parties to abide by international law.
- It is appropriate that there is a thorough and independent investigation. Those responsible must be held accountable.

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza on UN premises [19 March 2025]

- Call for swift and comprehensive investigation into the strike on UN premises [19 March] – essential those providing aid are protected.
- And on all parties to protect civilians and redouble efforts to return to the ceasefire and hostage deal.
- Hostages must be released, civilians protected and aid must flow to those in need.

Calls for annexation of Gaza, forced displacement, removal of population and warning of “total destruction and devastation”

- Australia condemns any suggestion of the complete destruction of Gaza and rejects any calls for its annexation or for the forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.
- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position has been to support a two-state solution
 - this has not changed.
- Any plan for Gaza will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries and the Palestinians.
- Important now to focus on resuming the ceasefire agreement and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas
 - we acknowledge the tireless work of the US, Qatar and Egypt
 - all civilians must be protected
 - all parties must abide by international law.
- Australia has long been clear in opposing forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza [*PM Albanese in joint CANZ statement, 13 December 2023*].
- Australia opposes the forcible displacement of Palestinians, the reoccupation of Gaza, and any reduction in territory.
- Israel must act in accordance with international law.
- Australia is not contributing to displacement of Palestinians from Gaza; it is providing support to Australians and family members who wish to leave.

Trump proposal for US occupation of Gaza

- Australia’s longstanding bipartisan position is to support a two-state solution
 - a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders
 - this position has not changed.
- Any plan will need the support of all relevant parties, including regional countries.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents

- There is no place in Australia for [Antisemitism/Islamophobia/racism], hatred or discrimination of any kind and we unequivocally condemn it.

- and no justification for conflicts on the other side of the world being brought home and changing how Australians treat each other.
- The Australian Government is responding through a range of domestic initiatives to address the impacts of conflict in the Middle East in Australia
 - the government has announced over \$125 million in funding over four years to support Australian communities affected by the conflict in the Middle East.
- The Australian Government has acted strongly to combat abhorrent incidents of antisemitism, including:
 - on 21 January 2025, the Prime Minister convened a meeting of National Cabinet, bringing together State Premiers and Chief Ministers to address the rise of antisemitic hate crimes
 - a national reporting system will enable better informed and coordinated responses to antisemitic incidents
 - in July 2024 the Government appointed Ms Jillian Segal AO as Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism in Australia.
 - on 10 July 2025, the Special Envoy released her Plan to Combat Antisemitism which provides a policy-oriented framework to address antisemitism across education, law, digital spaces and community life
 - the Government established a special operation to investigate threats, violence and hatred towards the Australian Jewish community and parliamentarians
 - we have also provided more than \$57 million to improve safety and security at Jewish schools and synagogues.

Australia's voting at the UN [November-December 2024]

- Australia has been clear and consistent about its position on the conflict in the Middle East and the need for a two-state solution.
- Our voting positions at the UN are consistent with our opposition to unilateral actions which threaten peace, support for a two-state solution, and desire to support the ongoing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.

Allegations of IDF use of 'human shields' and mistreatment of Palestinians in detention

- Deeply concerned by allegations IDF units in Gaza are using civilian residents as 'human shields'
 - we have raised these allegations with Israeli counterparts, pressing for an immediate and transparent investigation, and full accountability.
- Since the beginning of the conflict, Australia has repeatedly condemned Hamas' use of human shields.
- All parties to the conflict must comply with international humanitarian law.
- Deeply concerned by Commission of Inquiry reporting [30 October 2024] alleging abuse against Palestinian detainees, including the ongoing and unlawful detention of Palestinian minors
 - we have repeatedly raised our concerns with Israel about allegations of abuse against Palestinian detainees.
- Allegations of death, torture, sexual abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention, as well as the alleged use of human shields by the IDF in Gaza are horrific and must be fully and transparently investigated.
- We continue to press Israel to:
 - grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities
 - protect Palestinian detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment
 - and investigate distressing allegations of mistreatment and deaths of Palestinian detainees.

Allegations of Israel's 'genocidal acts' and use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in Gaza [UN Commission of Inquiry Report 13 March 2025]

- We have been clear throughout this conflict that all parties to the conflict must respect international humanitarian law.
- We continue to press Israel to protect civilians, health facilities and any detainees under its custody, and to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.
- We remain unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas for its ongoing acts of terror
 - it must release hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity.

IDF detention of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya

- Aware of reports that Israel has detained Dr Hussam Abu Safiya [following an Israeli raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza on 27 December 2024].
- Australia has been clear that we expect all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law.
- We have also been clear that hospitals, medical workers, and medical transport are essential to life-saving care.
- We expect Israel to protect detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment.

Will Australia suspend defence export permits to Israel [similar to the UK]?

- Australia has not supplied weapons to Israel since the conflict began, and for at least the past five years.
- Australia maintains a robust and thorough export control regime, which requires each application to be assessed on its merits in accordance with Australian export control legislation
 - this legislative framework addresses a range of issues including foreign policy, human rights, national security, regional security and Australia's international obligations. This includes Australia's obligations to regulate conventional arms and its components under the Arms Trade Treaty.
- A permit would be refused if Australia identified an export would be used contrary to the national interest, including violating human rights.

Defence review of export permits to Israel

- Australia continues to scrutinise pre-existing export permits to Israel to ensure they align with our calibrated approach
 - this process is being led by Defence and is ongoing.

How is the Government ensuring that no one from the region with links to terrorist groups will get a visa to Australia?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.
- **s 33(a)(iii)** DFAT provides consular assistance to Australian citizens and permanent residents, and to their immediate family members that have a right of entry to Australia.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD / BILATERAL RECOGNITION

What would be needed for Australia to recognise a Palestinian state?

- Australia no longer believes recognition can only come at the end of a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians
 - it could occur as a contribution of momentum towards peace
 - for Australia, it is not a matter of if, but when.

- Australia wants to engage on new ways to build momentum, including the role of the Security Council in setting a pathway for two-states, with a clear timeline for the international declaration of Palestinian statehood.
- We must see all hostages released and no role for Hamas in a future Palestinian state.
- We want to see a reformed Palestinian governing authority that is committed to peace, that disavows violence and is ready to engage in a meaningful political process
 - we want to see a reformed Palestinian Authority capable of representing the entire Occupied Palestinian Territories
 - at the same time, Israel cannot continue to take unilateral action to entrench the occupation and prevent a viable Palestinian state.

Would recognising a Palestinian state reward Hamas?

- No—a two-state solution is the opposite of what Hamas wants.
- Hamas does not want peace and it does not want long term security for the state of Israel nor for the Palestinian people.
- Hamas is a terrorist organisation that has the explicit intent of the destruction of the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) & INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

ICC arrest warrants issued for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant [21 November 2024]

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Adherence to international law is a matter of principle and is in Australia's interests.

Will Australia enforce ICC arrest warrants?

- Don't propose to speculate on hypotheticals.
- Australia will act consistently with our obligations under international law.

Does Australia agree with the decision of the Court?

- Australia respects the independence of the ICC and its important role in upholding international law.
- Not appropriate to offer commentary on the Court's decision.

Has Australia received a request to take action in relation to the arrest warrants?

- Not appropriate to comment.
- The Rome Statute provides that States must keep ICC requests for cooperation confidential.

US comments condemning ICC arrest warrants

- The US is not party to the Rome Statute.
- Not appropriate to comment.

The rulings of provisional measures in South Africa's case at the ICJ

- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with the binding orders of the ICJ, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- We respect the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order.
- We note decisions of the ICJ are binding on the parties to a case.

What action are you taking in the wake of the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of the OPTs [19 July 2024]?

- Australia respects the independence of the Court and its important role in upholding international law and the rules-based order
 - we have called on Israel to respond substantively to the opinion [*CANZ PM statement on 26 July 2024*].
- Australia has been firm and consistent publicly and privately that settlement activity is illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.
- The occupation must be brought to an end
 - such that we see security for Palestinians, for Israel, and for the region.
- Just and enduring peace will require the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to self-determination to be realised.
- We want to see Israel respond substantively to the advisory opinion, reverse the expansion of settlements, and respond to extremist settler activity.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [18 September 2024]

- On 18 September 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution that purported to give effect to the 19 July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia is, and will remain, a resolute defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- Australia supports many of the principles of this resolution – but we, and many other likeminded countries had concerns about the final draft we were asked to vote on.
- That's why we engaged with partners to seek changes to the resolution, to address those concerns.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that directly reflected the ICJ Advisory Opinion.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that clearly offered the Palestinian people a path to self-determination – and gave the world a path to a two-state solution.
- We wanted to vote for a resolution that gave the international community a clear way to respond to the ICJ's Advisory Opinion.
- We are concerned that by making demands of the entire UN membership that go beyond the scope of the Advisory Opinion, the resolution distracts from what the world needs Israel, and the parties themselves, to do.
- Ultimately, changes we sought to address our concerns were not accepted, and we abstained with great disappointment.

Australia's abstention on UN General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories [19 December 2024]

- On 19 December 2024, Australia abstained from voting on a General Assembly resolution seeking an ICJ advisory opinion on Israel's obligations regarding humanitarian assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- Australia abstained on this particular resolution because we did not agree that pursuing this ICJ advisory opinion would make an immediate and practical difference in bringing us closer to peace or to a two-state solution.
- Israel's obligations under international law are clear – they are enshrined in customary international law and reflected in the Geneva Conventions.
- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.
- Australia has been clear that Israel must comply with these binding orders.
- Australia remains a strong defender of international law, including the ICJ.
- We expect all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law.

Why did Australia not make a written submission to the ICJ on Israel's humanitarian obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The ICJ has already issued binding orders on Israel, including to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance at scale.

HUMANITARIAN

Has Israel breached international law?

- *Australia has consistently urged all parties to the conflict to abide by international law.*
- *Israel has an obligation to provide basic services and facilitate humanitarian assistance.*
- *As the Prime Minister has said, Israel's denial of aid and the killing of civilians, including children, seeking access to water and food cannot be defended or ignored.*

What is Australia doing to protect aid workers?

- 2024 was the deadliest year on record for humanitarian personnel
 - at least 381 aid workers were killed around the world in 2024 [*figures from the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) as of 8 July 2025*]
 - over 200 aid workers have been killed so far in 2025 [*figures from AWSDB as of 8 July 2025*]
- The Australian Government is leading a global push to help protect aid workers in conflict zones
 - and, through a new Ministerial Group (Australia, Jordan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, Japan, Brazil and Colombia), is developing a Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel to galvanise international commitment to uphold international humanitarian law
 - which protects personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting civilians and is essential to the protection of aid workers everywhere.
- We underline that the best protection for humanitarian personnel and civilians is a ceasefire. [*See separate Whole of Government Talking Points on the Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel*]

Where is Australia's humanitarian funding being directed?

- Since 7 October 2023, we have committed more than \$110m in humanitarian assistance to support civilians in Gaza and Lebanon.
- Our funding is being directed to conflict-affected people with a focus on women and children
 - including to help to provide food, water, medicines and shelter.

Providing donations to conflict affected populations

- Those wishing to provide humanitarian aid should do so through established channels
 - there is a risk that donated funds may be misused for the purpose of terrorism financing
 - Australia has listed Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hizballah as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code
 - they are also designated entities subject to counter-terrorism financing sanctions under the Australian sanctions law
 - to mitigate against this risk due diligence is important and proper processes are in place to ensure funds are protected from misuse, are being used towards their charitable purpose and the persons or entities involved are not designated under Australian sanctions law or the Criminal Code
 - it may also be an offence to provide funds to any organisation that is engaged in terrorist acts, even if that group is not listed as a terrorist organisation.

- The Australian Government's Terrorist Organisations List and Consolidated Sanctions List can assist the public to undertake their due diligence checks
 - we also recommend reviewing the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website, where possible, to check if a charity is registered with ACNC as well as access useful information on donations more broadly.
- Further information is available on DFAT's website
 - see the Lebanon country page and the Hamas-Israel conflict page.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA)

US backing Israel's anti-UNRWA legislation in ICJ statement

- US submissions to the ICJ are a matter for the US Administration.
- Only UNRWA has the infrastructure to receive and distribute aid on the scale needed in Gaza. It remains the backbone of the humanitarian response.

Israeli Knesset Anti-UNRWA Legislation

- Australia strongly opposes the Israeli Knesset's decision to severely restrict UNRWA's work
 - the legislation will only exacerbate the crisis in Gaza
 - Australia joined Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea and the UK to urge Israel's Knesset not to proceed with this legislation [27 October 2024]
 - and Foreign Minister Wong posted on X expressing Australia's opposition to the Knesset's decision [29 October 2024].
- We have made our opposition to this legislation clear to Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv and Canberra.
- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees.
- The Colonna Review confirmed that UNRWA's role is indispensable and life-saving in providing support to Palestinians.
- No other agency has the mandate and capability to do so.
- No agency or combination of agencies can take up UNRWA's role in any credible timeframe and if Israel persists in preventing UNRWA operating this will directly exacerbate an already dire humanitarian situation
 - as the UN Security Council has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.
- Australia supports a strong and robust multilateral system, including the protection of United Nations agencies to do their critical work.

Australian funding to UNRWA

- *As the UNSC has said, UNRWA is the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza.*
- Australia has been a consistent and long-standing contributor to UNRWA, making a financial contribution every year since 1951.
- Australia provided \$20.6 million in core funding to UNRWA in 2023-24, as well as \$6 million to UNRWA's flash appeal.
- Australia provided \$20 million in core funding to UNRWA for 2024-25
 - and has signed a new Strategic Partnership Framework to underpin this funding
 - which ensures stringent controls and safeguards, consistent with Australian law.
- We are monitoring the humanitarian situation closely and are in regular contact with all our humanitarian partners as they assess humanitarian needs, funding requirements and response plans.

Why does the Australian Government fund UNRWA?

- UNRWA is the only UN body specifically mandated to provide relief and social services to Palestinian refugees
 - without UNRWA, Hamas would control health and education services in Gaza
 - and this would help propagate Hamas' extremist ideology.
- UNRWA is playing a central role in the delivery of humanitarian relief to Palestinians affected by the fighting in Gaza
- UNRWA facilities are hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons in Gaza
 - and its work will remain vital until there is a just and sustainable solution to the refugee situation.

Colonna Review on UNRWA

- Australia welcomes the report following the independent review into UNRWA and the principle of neutrality, led by former French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna (Colonna Review).
- The Review found UNRWA was "irreplaceable and indispensable"
 - and pivotal in providing life-saving humanitarian aid and essential social services to Palestinians.
- It also found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - it says UNRWA possesses a more developed approach to neutrality than similar UN organisations
 - we welcome the Review's recommendations to further strengthen UNRWA's neutrality policies and practices.
- There was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terror organisations
 - or that there has been diversion of funding.
- We are pleased the UN Secretary-General has accepted the recommendations and UNRWA has committed to implement them
 - Australia will continue to work closely with likeminded partners to support UNRWA in this reform process.

Don't the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) findings [5 August 2024] prove that UNRWA is supporting Hamas?

- The OIOS found there was evidence to suggest nine staff may have been involved in the 7 October attacks
 - it also found there was insufficient evidence to support Israeli claims against nine others and no evidence against one other person.
- We welcome the decision to terminate employment of individuals for whom evidence indicated possible involvement in the 7 October terrorist attacks.
- This process was an important element of the UN and UNRWA's response to allegations made against some UNRWA staff, along with the independent Colonna Review.
- Important to note that the Colonna Review found UNRWA had robust principles and processes to safeguard neutrality
 - there was no systemic neutrality failure
 - and there was no finding that UNRWA's operations have been captured by Hamas or other terrorist organisations.
- The review said that UNRWA was indispensable and providing life-saving services to Palestinians.
- Australia, alongside our partners, continues to push the UN and UNRWA to implement reforms and address findings from the two investigations.
- We are closely monitoring UNRWA's efforts to enhance internal safeguards in support of neutrality.
- Our funding arrangement with UNRWA includes stringent controls and safeguards to ensure compliance with Australian law.

How do we know that UNRWA is not still employing terrorists?

- Welcome UNRWA's decision to dismiss all staff implicated in the OIOS report
 - have made clear to UNRWA that Australia has no tolerance for members of Hamas or any other terrorist group working for the organisation
 - we continue to expect UNRWA to take swift action to investigate any credible allegations.
- Note the independent Colonna Review made no finding that UNRWA's operations had been systematically captured by Hamas or other terror organisations.

What about Israel's claims that hundreds of UNRWA staff / 19% of staff are Hamas operatives?

- Note the Colonna Review did not receive evidence to support this.
- Australia has not been provided supporting evidence in relation to these claims.

Has Australia seen the OIOS report?

- We have been provided with a redacted copy of the report
 - UN reports of this kind would not ordinarily be made public.

THE WEST BANK

Recent escalation of violence in the West Bank

- Deeply concerned by violence in the West Bank
 - Israel must ensure civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected
 - urge all parties to refrain from actions that risk escalating tensions
 - condemn the ongoing settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians
 - reiterate our expectation that Israel holds perpetrators of settler violence to account and cease its ongoing settlement activity.
- We oppose all actions that undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.

Israeli settlements in the West Bank

- The Government's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace
 - in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2334 [2016], which determined settlements have no legal validity and constitute a 'flagrant violation' of international law.

Advancement of E1 Settlement Bloc

- Australia's longstanding position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace.
- Gravely concerned by Israel's decision to advance planning procedures for the E1 settlement that would undermine the viability of a future Palestinian state.
- A two-state solution remains the only path to enduring peace and security for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

Settler violence in the West Bank

- Australia is deeply concerned by ongoing settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank
 - these actions only threaten to inflame tensions and further undermine stability and prospects for a two-state solution.
- The Australian Government calls on Israel to hold perpetrators of settler violence to account and to cease its ongoing settlement activity.
- The Australian Government will deny anyone identified as an extremist settler a visa to travel to Australia

- and has imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions on Israeli Ministers [announced 10 June 2025]

[Refer to the Sanctions on Israeli Ministers Whole of Government Talking Points]

Has Australia imposed sanctions in response to the 7 October Hamas terrorist attacks?

- Australia has already taken strong action and imposed counter-terrorism financing sanctions in relation to Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hizballah
 - these sanctions are made pursuant to Australia's obligations under UNSCR 1373.
- Since 7 October 2023, the Australian Government has announced counter terrorism financing sanctions on twenty persons and four entities linked to Hamas, Hizballah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Has Australia imposed sanctions against West Bank extremist settlers?

- On 25 July 2024, the government imposed Magnitsky-style targeted financial sanctions and travel bans on seven individuals and targeted financial sanctions on one entity for their involvement in settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.
- The individuals sanctioned have been involved in violent attacks on Palestinians,
 - including beatings, sexual assault and torture of Palestinians resulting in serious injury and in some cases, death.
- The entity sanctioned is a youth group that is responsible for inciting and perpetrating violence against Palestinian communities.

Will Australia impose sanctions against other Israeli citizens (settlers or senior officials)?

- Sanctions are a complex foreign policy tool and just one of a suite of possible measures the Australian Government considers in responding to a situation of international concern.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

The US reversed sanctions on extremist Israeli settlers, placed under President Biden. Will Australia also reverse the sanctions we have placed on Israeli settlers?

- Aware the US have lifted sanctions on persons and entities involved in the undermining of peace, security and stability in the West Bank.
- Our sanctions decisions are made in line with our national interests.
- We do not speculate about potential sanctions measures.

What do you think about the US's removal of West Bank sanctions?

- This is a decision for the US administration.

CONSULAR

What is the government's travel advice for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- We continue to advise reconsider your need to travel to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism (level 3 of 4).

- We continue to advise do not travel to Gaza and areas nears the border with Gaza, border areas with Lebanon and the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem).
- DFAT keeps all Smartraveller travel advisories under close review, including regularly and carefully assessing the risks to Australians overseas to ensure that we provide accurate and up-to-date information.
- We encourage Australians to subscribe to Smartraveller for updates.

Departures

- Australia is doing all it can to support Australians and their immediate family members still in Gaza who wish to depart.
- It continues to be very difficult for people to depart Gaza and the Australian Government has limited ability to assist.
- The Rafah border remains closed.
- The Australian Government does not control the border crossings, nor does it determine who is approved or denied departure
- Meeting requirements for a visa does not mean an entitlement to consular assistance; nor does it mean that other authorities will allow people to leave where they are
 - people who obtain Australian visas are subject to appropriate identity, security and character checks.

How is the Australian Government ensuring that none of those being repatriated to Australia have links to terrorist groups?

- The Australian Government is committed to protecting the safety of all Australians
 - and has robust domestic measures and strong international partnerships in place to address terrorism risks.

What visa options are available for people from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

- The Department of Home Affairs is progressing visa applications from people impacted by the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- The government is committed to supporting people who are from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories who have arrived in Australia on temporary visas.
- Anyone who has arrived in Australia on a temporary visa from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not limited to one visa pathway if they want to extend their stay.
- Everyone's situation is different, and the Department of Home Affairs strongly recommends people consider their own circumstances and apply for the visa that best suits them.
- There are a wide range of visa options across Australia's migration and visa programs including family, skilled, humanitarian and temporary visa programs.
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and their families who arrived on a temporary visa and are unable to access standard visa pathways or return, may apply for a Bridging Visa E (BVE).
- People from significantly affected areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on a BVE will have full work rights, access to Medicare, and will be eligible for free Translating and Interpreting Services.

Death of Australian Zomi Frankcom

- The deaths of Ms (Zomi) Frankcom and her six World Central Kitchen colleagues were outrageous, unacceptable and should not have occurred
 - humanitarian workers in a conflict zone delivering aid must be protected.
- Our deepest sympathies remain with Ms Frankcom's family and loved ones
 - Zomi had dedicated her life to the service of others

- she was an Australian we can all be proud of.
- The government has made clear to Israel its expectation of a full, thorough and transparent investigation
 - and has demanded full accountability from Israeli authorities.
- The government appointed former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, as Special Adviser on Israel's response to the incident
 - he was engaged to advise on whether the steps taken by Israel to ensure full accountability were sufficient and appropriate.
- Air Chief Marshal Binskin's Report is publicly available on the DFAT website
- The Report concludes that ultimately, a failure of IDF controls and violations of standard operating procedures led to the deaths of the seven World Central Kitchen aid workers
 - the government has agreed with the Report's recommendations and is in the process of implementing them.

Australian student Ranem Abu Izneid injured in the West Bank [15 November 2024]

- The Australian Government provided consular assistance to an Australian citizen (Ms Ranem Tareq Abu Izneid) injured in the West Bank.
- Australian officials in Tel Aviv and Canberra have registered our concerns with Israeli officials and sought further information about the incident.
- We have made clear Australia's expectations for a comprehensive and transparent investigation.

s 33(a)(iii) - This section and pages (169-175) are exempt and the following pages have been removed

Handling Notes

Media Interest

These events have a high level of domestic and international interest.

Approval	
Consultation	HPD
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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