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**DFAT Talking Points - Strikes on Iran - v1 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**


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From **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
 Date Sat 2/28/2026 9:58 PM  
 To **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>

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**Australian Government**
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**
**MEDIA TALKING  
POINTS**
**DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CRISIS MANAGEMENT**  
**Subject: Strikes on Iran**

**Originating Division: MAD**

**Version Date: 28/2/2026**  
**Version: 1**

**Reason for Update: New talking points**  
**Expiry: 28/03/2026**

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**Talking Points**
**Key messages**

- The Australian Government is aware of Israeli and US strikes on Iran and reprisal attacks by Iran.
- We are closely monitoring this evolving situation
  - and have activated the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Crisis Centre.
- Australians in the region should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which has been updated today, and subscribe for updates
  - we note there is already a substantial impact on commercial air traffic in the region.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.

**Consular**

- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We now advise Australians do not travel to Israel or Lebanon
  - if you are in Israel or Lebanon, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - as reflected in travel advice, conflict will affect airport operations and airspace
  - expect flight cancellations and disruption to travel.
- The closure of transport hubs in the Middle East will likely lead to flight disruptions and cancellations beyond the Middle East.
- Travellers should prioritise their safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- Australians in need of urgent consular assistance should contact the Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 or +61 2 6261 3306 outside Australia.

### **Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- We do not discuss the details of operational discussions with partners.

### **Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- We won't go into hypotheticals.

### **Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- Australia has a longstanding position of support and respect for international law and is firmly committed to its obligations.
- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.

### **Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
  - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
  - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

## Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

## Background

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Trump stated in a press conference that: "the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests. We are going to destroy their missiles and raise their missile industry to the ground. It will be totally...obliterated. We're going to annihilate their Navy. We're going to ensure that the region's terrorist proxies can no longer destabilise the region or the world and attack our forces...And we will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon...To the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the armed forces, and all of the police...lay down your weapons...You will be treated fairly with total immunity, or you will face certain death...to the great proud people of Iran...the hour of your freedom is at hand. Stay sheltered. Don't leave your home. It's very dangerous outside. Bombs will be dropping everywhere. When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take...Now is the time to seize control of your destiny and to unleash the prosperous and glorious future that is close within your reach. This is the moment for action. Do not let it pass."

Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE.

## Australian Government Response

Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated.

We have updated travel advice for Israel and Lebanon to "Do Not Travel".

Smartertraveller travel advice across the region has been updated.

Foreign Minister Wong has re-tweeted updated Smartertraveller travel advice.


## Handling Notes

## Media Interest

Approval	
Consultation	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Paul Griffiths FAS MAD

Distribution	
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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
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## **MEDIA TALKING POINTS DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic:** CONSULAR

**Subject:** Middle East Regional Conflict 2026

**Originating Division:**  
CCD

**Version Date:** 2/3/2026

**Version:** 4

**Reason for Update:**  
Developments in the  
region  
**Expiry:** 1/04/2026

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### **Talking Points**

#### **Key messages**

- We are closely monitoring the evolving situation in the Middle East
  - and have activated the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Crisis Centre.
- The Middle East region is volatile and *we* understand this is a difficult time for Australians impacted by these events.
- *We extend our sympathies to families that have lost loved ones.*
- *We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East*
  - Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is being regularly updated, and subscribe for updates.
- *Australians in the region should* prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions.
- *Australians overseas should* prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict.
  - Even if you are not travelling in or through the Middle East, your plans may still be affected.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has opened a portal for registration of Australians in Israel and Iran [at approximately 1130 1 March]

- the registration portal is for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members who have right of entry into Australia
- immediate family members include:
  - the partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - the parent/legal guardian of an Australian citizen or permanent resident child (under 18 years old)
- registering your details in this portal allows the Australian Government to provide you directly with latest advice, relevant to your location.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- We call on Iran to cease its indiscriminate attacks against other countries in the region, many of which are not party to this conflict
  - and to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure
  - we want to avoid escalation into a broader regional conflict with consequences for the people of the region.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We join our partners in calling on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.
- Civilians must be protected
  - we urge a return to dialogue and diplomacy.
- Recognise this is a distressing time for so many in the Australian-Iranian community
  - compounded by the communications blackout and an inability to reach friends

and family in Iran

- we reiterate the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.

## **Consular**

- The government's priority is the safety and security of Australians.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - noting there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment
  - there will be flight delays and cancellations, both in the region and globally – including on routes to Europe
  - scheduled flights can change at short notice.
- *We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East*
  - *this includes Israel, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Palestine Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iraq*
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- *We now advise Australians in Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to 'reconsider your need to travel'.*
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - Closely monitor events and local media
  - Check directly with your travel agent or airlines to confirm your plans
  - Review travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations
  - monitor Smartraveller for updates and the latest travel advice

## **Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?**

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.

The airspace is closed; Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage

- we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, and shelter in place
- we will continue to monitor the evolving situation.

**Did Australia receive any advance warning of the strikes?**

- Australia was not told in advance and would not expect to be.
- Australia is not at the centre of issues in the Middle East, but we play a role in the international community.

**Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- Australia did not participate in these strikes on Iran and would not expect to participate.

**Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- Australia would not expect to participate.

**Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.

**Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- Ultimately, Iran's future must be determined by the people of Iran. The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
  - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those

involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country

- since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

### **Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?**

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes
  - we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

### **Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

### **Issues with phone connectivity in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Beirut**

- Aware that due to the situation on the ground there are reported phone connectivity issues in certain locations in the Middle East.
- We have diverted our Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy telephones to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.

### **Are Australian Embassies and consulates open in the region?**

- Embassies and consulates remain open but operations may be impacted by local shelter-in-place requirements.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

### **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Trump stated in a press conference that: “the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests”. He said the US “will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon”. To the Iranian people, President Trump said: “When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take”.

Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The UK, France, and Germany have issued a statement condemning Iranian attacks on countries in the region and calling for a resumption of negotiations.

On 1 March 2026 (AEDT), US President Trump and Israeli officials claimed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei had been killed. After Iran initially denied these claims, at approximately 1230 AEDT, Iran state TV reported that Ayatollah Khamenei was dead. *Iran state media has reported Alireza Arafii as Iran's temporary Supreme Leader.*

At the request of French President Emmanuel Macron, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting on Iran in New York at 1600 28 February EST (0800 1 March AEDT). The UN Secretary General condemned the “massive” military strikes by US and Israel on Iran, and subsequent strikes by Iran on Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE as violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

*European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said there was ‘renewed hope for the people of Iran’ following the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.*

*An extraordinary board meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors has been called for 9am Monday 2 March (Vienna time).*

The UK has confirmed reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz. International shipping authorities have also reported significant military activity in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea.

*Airspace across the Middle East is mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries, including Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Jordan. However, the availability of flights is restricted.*

### **Australian Government Response**

On 28 February 2026, Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement with Deputy Prime Minister Marles and Foreign Minister Wong saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".

Following NSC [0830 1 March], Foreign Minister Wong said in a press conference, said ‘any regime change must be supported by the people of Iran’. Urging ‘the protection of civilian life’ and ‘the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy’. Further calling on all parties to ‘adhere to international humanitarian law’. Confirming we want to avoid any ‘escalation in a wider regional conflict’ and anticipate difficult days ahead.

Prime Minister Albanese said in a press conference at 1130 on 1 March Australia ‘stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against what is an oppressive regime’. We ‘support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security’.

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 1,451 calls (as at 0400, 2 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated). The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

At approximately 1130 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel only.

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

### **Handling Notes**

**Media Interest**

<b>Approval</b>	
Consultation	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	s 22(1)(a)(ii)

<b>Distribution</b>	
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