



THE HON DR ANNE ALY MP

Member for Cowan

Formal Statement by Dr Anne Aly MP

My heart goes out to everyone who has been affected by the ongoing crisis within Israel and Palestine. This is a very distressing time for many in our community, and I share this grief with you. The loss of life that has occurred cannot be measured by statistics, or the number of reports coming out of Gaza.

As the Member for Cowan, raising the voices of my constituents in Parliament is my highest priority. I have made several public comments on this pressing issue. Many are calling for a ceasefire and that is certainly the desired outcome. Ceasefires however, require the two parties to enter into negotiations, which neither party currently appears willing to do. The tragic reality is that ceasefires can take a long time and the people of Gaza can't afford to wait for that to occur.

It is in this context that the Australian Government has called for an immediate humanitarian pause and has been clear that the observance of international law needs to be upheld and the protection of human life is paramount. The Government has consistently called for safe, unimpeded, and sustained humanitarian access. We're working with countries that have influence in the region to achieve this. We are committed to do what we can to protect and provide support to the civilians in Gaza.

On 26 October, Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced that Australia would provide an additional \$15 million in humanitarian assistance for civilians affected by the conflict in Gaza, the West Bank and across the region. This funding will be delivered through trusted partners to help address immediate and emerging needs including food, water, medicine, and other essential services. This funding is an addition to the \$10 million already committed by the Australian Government and brings our total package of assistance to \$25 million since 7 October.

I appreciate everyone who has contacted my office, seeking my views and calling for action. I hope my response has helped explain my position and the work our government is doing to assist the people of Gaza. This is an extremely difficult time for our community, that's why it's more important now than ever to find compassion for one another, help each other, and not lose hope – because that is something we simply cannot afford to give up. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Aly'.

Dr Anne Aly MP
Member for Cowan