

5 June 2025

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

In relation to the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) again urges the Australian government to call for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire, advocate for unimpeded access to humanitarian aid and support the protection of all healthcare personnel and facilities.

Whilst commending the government on recently becoming a signatory to the international [Joint donor statement on humanitarian aid to Gaza](#), more needs to be done to ensure humanitarian aid reaches civilians in Gaza and to protect all healthcare personnel who put themselves at risk to provide essential care to those in need.

[Dr Ashok Philip](#), President of the World Medical Association (WMA), of which the AMA is a National Medical Association member, stated this week that “It is a matter of humanity not to let the people of Gaza face starvation or be denied healthcare. Both sides must respect humanitarian law. That means protecting healthcare facilities and staff—not attacking or misusing them—and also making sure that people have access to food and essential supplies.”

In the last few weeks, the WMA has repeatedly [called on](#) the Israeli government to ensure humanitarian aid reaches Gaza, [demanding](#) a bilateral, negotiated, and sustainable ceasefire in order to protect all civilians, secure the release and safe passage of all hostages and to allow the transfer of humanitarian aid for all.

The AMA fully supports and promotes the WMA's [Resolution on the Protection of Healthcare in Israel and Gaza](#), adopted October 2024, which reads:

PREAMBLE

In response to the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza the WMA is gravely concerned by the deepening healthcare and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the growing starvation and the lack of medical care and deeply concerned about the continued imprisonment and abuse of hostages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The WMA Council and its constituent members call for:

1. A bilateral, negotiated and sustainable ceasefire in order to protect all civilian life, secure the release and safe passage of all hostages and to allow the transfer of humanitarian aid for all those

in need.

- 2. The immediate and safe release of all hostages.*
- 3. Pending their release, humanitarian aid and healthcare attention to be provided to the hostages.*
- 4. All parties to abide by international humanitarian law and the principle of medical neutrality to safeguard the rights and protection of healthcare facilities, healthcare personnel and patients from further threat, interference and attack.*
- 5. Unimpeded and accelerated humanitarian access throughout all of Gaza, including the entry of humanitarian aid and safe passage of medical personnel. This also includes the evacuation of urgent medical cases to reduce secondary morbidity and mortality, public health risks, and alleviate pressure on hospitals inside Gaza.*
- 6. The re-establishment of access to healthcare and the creation of a safe working environment for healthcare personnel to work in through the restoration of medical capacity and essential services.*
- 7. Verified investigations into alleged gross violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law including attacks on healthcare staff and facilities and the misuse of those facilities for military purposes.*
- 8. The upholding by physicians of the principles in the WMA Declaration of Geneva and other documents that serve as guidance for medical personnel during times of conflict.*

It is unfortunate that these recommendations are as urgent and relevant today as they were when adopted last year. We urge the Australian government to support these recommendations and act to ensure that the people of Gaza receive the humanitarian aid they critically need and that healthcare personnel, and the facilities within which they work, are protected.

Sincerely

S 47F

Dr Danielle McMullen
President

cc: The Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs