

2025 FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE



EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL OF
AUSTRALIAN
JEWRY

Where do KINGSFORD SMITH candidates stand on issues affecting the Jewish community?





EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL OF
AUSTRALIAN
JEWRY



Liberal candidate
Brad Cole



Labor candidate
Matt Thistlethwaite

Questions 1-15 cover Domestic Policy and items emerging from the 15-point action plan to defeat antisemitism that was announced at the Antisemitism Summit on 20 Feb 2025

Questions 16-22 cover Foreign Policy

Liberal Party answers adopted by Liberal candidate Brad Cole

Labor Party answers adopted by Labor candidate Matt Thistlethwaite

Domestic Policy

Q1: *National Taskforce*

Would a government formed by your party establish a national taskforce led by a single minister to coordinate and mobilise all relevant intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the fight against antisemitism, with independent oversight by an Inspector who would report to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security?

The Coalition will create a new, dedicated Antisemitism Taskforce led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP); incorporating the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), the Australian Border Force (ABF) and state police.

We will also issue a new Ministerial Direction to the AFP to prioritise addressing antisemitism, including any outstanding complaints and unsolved crimes against the Jewish community since 7 October 2023 including doxxing, public display of terrorist symbols, incitement, harassment, and other offences. This would include re-evaluation of any decisions to not proceed with charges for these offences. We will direct the Antisemitism Taskforce to refer any visa holders involved in acts of antisemitism for immediate cancellation and deportation.

Q2: *Policing, intelligence and law enforcement*

Would a government formed by your party establish recommended uniform policing guidelines, and require Commonwealth intelligence and law enforcement personnel to be trained in identifying antisemitism?

The Coalition will create a new, dedicated Antisemitism Taskforce led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP); incorporating the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), the Australian Border Force (ABF) and state police.

As part of this work, we will ensure the taskforce is equipped to identify antisemitism and the symbols of antisemitic terrorist groups. As part of its national leadership role, the taskforce will share its expertise with state and territory counterparts to promote a consistent national law enforcement approach.

In lieu of specific answers to questions 1–15, the ALP has referred to the following letter from the Prime Minister to the ECAJ dated 20 March 2025 (commencing next page):

Domestic Policy

Q3: Legislative reform

(a) Does your party believe that the incitement and other offences prescribed in Subdivision C of Division 80 of the Criminal Code (Cth), the postal and carriage service offences prescribed in Divisions 471 and 474 of the Criminal Code and the minimum sentences mandated under section 16AAA of the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth) are a sufficient legislative response by the Federal government to address the recent spate of antisemitic incidents in Australia?

(b) If the number and severity of serious antisemitic incidents in Australia do not return to their pre-October 7, 2023 levels within 12 months, would a government formed by your party legislate to proscribe the intentional promotion of hatred on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability, without the addition of further elements to the offence?

Australia is facing a crisis of antisemitism, and the rise in antisemitic incidents in our communities is completely unacceptable.

Peter Dutton and the Coalition have led the way in passing legislation through the Parliament in response to the antisemitism crisis in Australia, with the Albanese Government being forced to agree to our measures, despite having a long history of opposition to mandatory minimum sentences.

The measures passed by the Coalition are an important step in combating the antisemitism crisis, but the lack of proactive leadership from the Albanese Government in addressing the antisemitism crisis remains an ongoing concern.

The Coalition has adopted the ECAJ's 15 point plan to combat antisemitism as part of our approach. If elected to Government, we will continue to consult with the Jewish community and consider any further measures needed to combat antisemitism where needed.



20 MAR 2025

Reference: MC25-024823

Dear Mr Aghion and Mr Ryvchin,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February 2025 regarding the Plan of Action resulting from the Sky News Antisemitism Summit.

I would like to reiterate my public statements - antisemitism has no place in Australia and I unequivocally condemn it. Every Australian, no matter their race or religion, should be able to enjoy their life in any Australian community, without prejudice or discrimination.

-continued on the following page:

Domestic Policy

Q4: National system to record hate-motivated crime

Would a government formed by your party take urgent steps to introduce and maintain a uniform national system, similar to those operating in the US, UK and Canada, for classifying and recording different categories of hate crimes, whether motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability, and to train law enforcement personnel to administer the system?

The Coalition supports the National Cabinet's decision to establish a National Database to track antisemitic crime and other antisemitic incidents and behaviours. The Commonwealth will work with States and Territories on the development of the Database. Crucially, a Dutton Coalition Government will not use the database to admire the problem - we will take real action to address the crisis of antisemitism in Australia.

We will:

- Create a new, dedicated Antisemitism Taskforce led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP); incorporating the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), the Australian Border Force (ABF) and state police;
- Issue a new Ministerial Direction to the AFP to prioritise addressing antisemitism, including any outstanding complaints and unsolved crimes against the Jewish community since 7 October 2023 including doxxing, public display of terrorist symbols, incitement, harassment, and other offences. This would include re-evaluation of any decisions to not proceed with charges for these offences;
- Direct the Antisemitism Taskforce to refer any visa holders involved in acts of antisemitism for immediate cancellation and deportation; and
- Amend the section 501 character provisions of the Migration Act to ensure this antisemitic conduct is captured by the law, and applies retrospectively for all acts of hatred towards the Jewish community since the 7 October 2023 terrorist attacks against Israel.

-Letter from the PM, continued:

We are acting strongly to combat incidents of antisemitism by introducing a range of measures across government to support the Jewish community. The Government has criminalised doxxing and created criminal offences for publicly displaying and trading in Nazi and terrorist organisation symbols, performing the Nazi salute in a public place, and dealing with violent extremist material. We have also enacted the Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Act 2025 to strengthen and expand criminal offences relating to advocating or threatening force or violence against groups, members of groups, or close associates, or their property or places of worship. This landmark reform to strengthen hate speech laws is the toughest law Australia has ever had against hate crimes.

The Government I lead will not tolerate crimes that undermine Australia's security or our inclusive way of life. We established Special Operation AVALITE as a joint agency operation with the Australian Federal Police and Australian Security Intelligence Organisation to respond to and investigate high impact, high harm matters to provide high value effect towards the prevention of antisemitism.

Domestic Policy

Q5: Education against antisemitism

Would a government formed by your party:

(a) make it a requirement via the national curriculum that the States and Territories include education against contemporary forms of antisemitism within their curricula, in addition to the study of the Holocaust?

(b) run a public awareness and advertising campaign to help Australians understand the ideologies behind violent antisemitism and the societal harms they cause?

(c) introduce a mandatory antisemitism education program for Federal personnel in law enforcement, the judiciary, the health sector and other sectors, as required, which could be adapted by State and Territory governments for their personnel?

(d) develop and publish an Australian government equivalent of the Canadian government's Handbook on the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism?

(e) roll out key education materials on antisemitism including a handbook on how employees and vocational trainees can protect their right not to be subjected to antisemitism in the workplace?

The former Coalition Government ensured the latest version of the Australian Curriculum included compulsory content on the Holocaust. We also invested in the establishment of several Holocaust museums to ensure students across Australia have access to important historical resources and education material.

A Dutton Coalition Government is determined to ensure young Australians are supported by a knowledge-rich, common sense national curriculum aligned with international best practice which should address antisemitism in all of its forms.

A Coalition Government will consider the most effective ways to raise awareness and educate Australians about the evils of antisemitism, which may include an advertising campaign, grants and ensuring the Australian Curriculum is fit for purpose. The Coalition wants to see every schoolchild visit a Holocaust Museum as one measure to educate Australians about the harms of antisemitism. If elected we will provide \$19 million to Australian Holocaust museums to support their expansion and to commemorate the victims of Hamas's terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October 2023.

This funding is inclusive of \$8.5 million for the Sydney Jewish Museum, \$3.5 million for Queensland Holocaust Museum, \$2 million for the Holocaust Institute of Western Australia's Education Centre, and \$5 million for specific October 7 commemorations and exhibits more generally.

An elected Dutton Government will provide \$180,000 from a revitalised Safer Communities Fund (SCF) to support 'Courage to Care', an initiative of the Holocaust Institute of WA aimed at teaching students to stand up against antisemitism.

Run as both incursions and excursions, this curriculum-aligned program uses the lessons of history – including acclaimed speakers, some of them Holocaust survivors – to teach tolerance and create awareness of the dangers of discrimination, racism and prejudice.

A Dutton Coalition Government will develop guidance for the Australian context based on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. This guidance will be published, and a Dutton Coalition will make it clear that we expect our institutions - including our universities - to implement this approach.

-Letter from the PM, continued:

Further, police commissioners from all jurisdictions have established a dedicated antisemitism coordination group with Deputy Commissioners from each police force.

The group meets monthly to share information, intelligence and, where appropriate, use existing national arrangements to assist with both active investigations and proactive operations that may transcend state borders. These initiatives are in addition to the cooperation that occurs through the Joint Counter-Terrorism Teams in every state and territory, comprising the AFP, ASIO and state law enforcement agencies.

Under the auspices of Special Operation A VALITE, the AFP has arrested 5 individuals on a number of charges including public display of hate symbols. These arrests are in addition to the significant investigative work of state and territory police leading to the arrest of hundreds of individuals.

As you will be aware, I announced funding of \$32.5 million on 8 December 2024 to your organisation to further enhance security at Jewish community sites including synagogues and schools.

Domestic Policy

Q6: Universities

Would a government formed by your party make it a condition of receiving Federal funding that each university:

- (a) bans encampments on university grounds in order to protect the psychosocial safety and physical safety of staff and students?
- (b) bans the disruption of lectures and tutorials by protesters?
- (c) exercises the responsibilities of a publisher of all student publications that receive university funding?
- (d) prevents external organisations or individuals from orchestrating protest activities on campuses? and
- (e) disclose by line all sources of funding from foreign governments and foundations with links to foreign governments or to listed terrorist organisations?

Everyone has a right to be safe on a university campus including Jewish staff and students. The Coalition has adopted a zero tolerance of antisemitism including on university campuses.

Following 7 October 2023, shockingly an antisemitism crisis erupted on university campuses. The Coalition strongly condemned the protests, encampments, classroom invasions, building occupations, the menacing of students by extremist protestors including members of Hizb-ut Tahrir, and other conduct including unlawful activity which drove so much hate and incitement towards Jewish Australians.

The Coalition has a comprehensive plan to combat antisemitism across Australia's universities including the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into Anti-Semitism at Australian Universities to be led by an eminent jurist.

In addition, under the Criminal Code, it is an offence to finance terrorism where a person intentionally collects or provides money and is reckless about whether the money will be used to facilitate or engage in a terrorist act.

A Dutton Coalition Government will ensure that our law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) are equipped to detect terrorism financing and prosecute individuals involved in these crimes.

-Letter from the PM, continued:

This funding is in addition to the \$25 million grant announced in October 23, and funding for Jewish community sites under the Government's \$50 million Securing Faith-Based Places grant program.

My Government will provide \$30 million for the restoration of the Adass Israel Synagogue and community centre in Ripponlea, Victoria. We will also provide funding of up to \$1.2 million for security upgrades to the current buildings due to reopen this year. This is in addition to the \$250,000 we funded towards the replacement and restoration of Torah Scrolls housed in the Synagogue. This funding decision will be reflected in next week's Budget.

On 21 January 2025, I convened a meeting of National Cabinet, where there was agreement to establish a National Database to track antisemitic crime and other antisemitic incidents and behaviours, to better inform and coordinate responses to these incidents. Further to this, on 21 February, the Standing Council of Attorneys-General agreed to commence work on a national database covering all hate crimes and incidents.

Domestic Policy

Q7: Universities

Would a government formed by your party:

(a) conduct a judicial inquiry into antisemitism at Australian universities, including an investigation into whether there has been foreign funding of student protests and, if there has been such funding, the recipients and the extent of that funding?

(b) legislate to overcome restrictions on universities under enterprise bargaining agreements in terminating the employment of, or taking disciplinary action against, academics who misconduct themselves, so that Australian universities have the same legal rights as US universities to fire or discipline academics?

(c) tighten the regulatory framework with respect to foreign interference at universities? and

(d) otherwise adopt the recent recommendations made by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights concerning antisemitism at Australian universities?

As outlined above, a Dutton Coalition Government will establish a Commission of Inquiry into Antisemitism at Australian Universities. Without limiting the findings of a Commission of Inquiry, we would expect to act on a range of issues of concern already identified.

Universities should have robust policies in place to manage foreign interference risks in an increasingly fraught strategic environment.

The University Foreign Interference Taskforce was established by the former Coalition Government in 2019 to ensure universities are appropriately managing and combating threats of foreign interference in the national interest. If this Taskforce is not operating as intended, we will strengthen it in Government.

A Dutton Coalition Government will consider advice from our national security and intelligence agencies on any reforms that may be required to combat foreign interference risks threatening our national interest.

-Letter from the PM, continued:

We have also commissioned a study into Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and the experience of First Nations people in the university sector, led by the Race Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Giridharan Sivaraman. In December 2024, the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) delivered an interim report to update Government on the project's progress, which is publicly available on the AHRC website.

The final report will be delivered in June 2025. In addition, on 29 October 2024, we referred Antisemitism at Australian universities to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights for inquiry and report. The Committee published its full report on 12 February 2025, which we are now considering.

Recognising the importance of education and learning about Jewish heritage and culture, the Government has also committed \$8.5 million to upgrade the Sydney Jewish Museum, with funding to go towards the Centre of Jewish Life and Tolerance. We have also committed \$4.4 million to build the National Holocaust Education Centre in Canberra and \$2 million to upgrade the Holocaust Institute of Western Australia's Education Centre in Yokine.

Domestic Policy

Q8/9: Hate preachers and charities spreading hate

8. Would a government formed by your party legislate to revoke the charitable status of, and terminate all government funding to, religious and other charitable institutions which

(a) promote hatred on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability; or

(b) display Nazi or terrorist symbols?

9. Would a government formed by your party take strong new measures to closely scrutinise the source and end use of funds received by charities in order to ensure that they are not using funds to support terrorism or to carry out activities outside of their charitable purposes?

Peter Dutton and the Coalition have led the way in passing legislation through the Parliament in response to the antisemitism crisis in Australia, with the Albanese Government being forced to agree to our measures for mandatory minimum sentences for terrorism offences and publicly displaying prohibited Nazi or terrorist organisation symbols, and increasing the maximum penalty for publicly displaying a prohibited Nazi or terrorist organisation symbol, or performing the Nazi salute, to 5 years.

This is despite Labor having a long history of opposition to mandatory minimum sentences. An elected Coalition Government would work with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) to ensure that all registered charities are complying with their strict governance and external conduct obligations under Division 35 of the ACNC Act.

Senator James Paterson has previously called for government funding to organisations that espouse antisemitic views and undermine Australia's social cohesion to immediately be rescinded. The Coalition will not hesitate to do so if elected to Government.

Under the Criminal Code, it is an offence to finance terrorism where a person intentionally collects or provides money and is reckless about whether the money will be used to facilitate or engage in a terrorist act.

A Dutton Coalition Government will ensure that our law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) are equipped to detect terrorism financing and prosecute individuals involved in these crimes.

-Letter from the PM, continued:

My Government has also announced an additional \$4 million over two years from 2024-25 for the Together for Humanity program for delivery of initiatives aimed at strengthening intercultural and interfaith understanding, building culturally safe schools and addressing all forms of discrimination in schools, with a particular focus on Antisemitism and Islamophobia. This builds on \$17 million the Australian Government has previously committed towards a suite of school-focused social cohesion initiatives, including \$8.1 million for Together for Humanity.

As part of the Government's ongoing efforts to improve social cohesion in Australia, including fostering inter-faith dialogue, we have appointed a Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism. Ms Jillian Segal AO. and a Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia Mr Aftab Malik. We have also appointed Mr Peter Khalil MP as the Special Envoy for Social Cohesion.

Domestic Policy

Q10/11: Migration Act and applicants for citizenship and visas

10. Would a government formed by your party introduce mandatory training for immigration officers to recognise antisemitism and to disqualify applicants who have a track record in promoting antisemitism under the character test?

11. Would a government formed by your party require all visa grantees to complete mandatory education on Australian values, including anti-racism, as a pre-condition before the granting of a visa?

Q12/13: Cultural institutions and grant-making bodies

12. Would a government formed by your party require that all Federal government grants come with a condition that the recipient does not promote racism, and, if the condition is subsequently breached, that the grant be revoked?

13. Would a government formed by your party require, as a condition of receiving any Federal grant, that literary and cultural festival boards have a balance of political representation, and withdraw government funding if the condition is breached?

A Dutton Coalition Government will overhaul the Department of Home Affairs approach to screening for and acting on antisemitic conduct. We will ensure individuals who engage in antisemitic conduct have their visas rejected or cancelled so they can be deported.

We will also ensure organisations affiliated with antisemitic views do not receive taxpayer funding, and that the Department is equipped to screen for this conduct before grants or contracts are awarded.

A Dutton Coalition Government will develop changes to the Australian Citizen Test to address the issue of antisemitism.

We will also ensure individuals who engage in antisemitic conduct have their visas rejected or cancelled so they can be deported.

The Coalition believes in freedom of thought, worship, speech and association. We do not believe censorship of political or other views, unless those views incite violence or hate, including racism and anti-Semitism.

Under a Coalition Government, we will not fund organisations or individuals, be it in the arts and culture, sport, or for any other purpose, that incite hate or violence, including racism and anti-Semitism.

-Letter from the PM, continued:

Racial hatred has no place in Australia. Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act protects all Australians against racial hate speech and allows those using racial hate speech to be held accountable. The Labor Party stood with the Jewish community to stop repeated attempts by the Coalition in government to repeal this key hate speech protection. The Coalition has never demonstrated it has changed its mind on 18C.

I remain focused on listening to the concerns of Jewish Australian communities and to working across government and with community stakeholders to foster greater social cohesion, greater understanding and inclusion of all Australians.

I have copied this letter to the Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs; the Hon Julian Hill MP, Assistant Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs; the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, the Attorney-General; the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education; and Peter Khalil MP, Special Envoy for Social Cohesion for visibility of your concerns.

Domestic Policy

Q14: Social Media

Would a government formed by your party make it a national security priority to counter foreign interference, by enacting new legislation to regulate online algorithms so as to prevent prescribed State and non-State actors deemed by the government to be hostile to Australia from manipulating social media and disrupting the free exchange of ideas?

Where authoritarian regimes rely on secrecy and deception to advance their national interests on social media, Australia should rely on openness and transparency to secure our own.

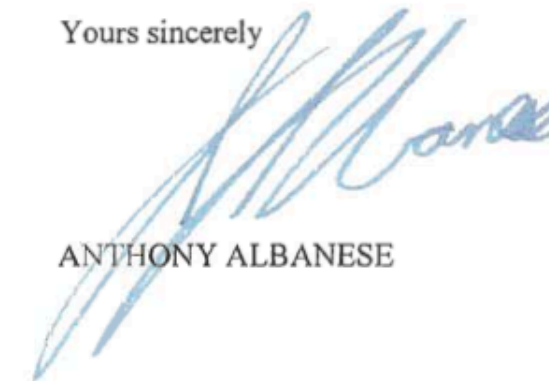
In 2023, Senator James Paterson chaired the Senate Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media, which recommended a range of enforceable transparency standards to both expose the clandestine conduct of authoritarian regimes online, and to empower and protect the freedoms of Australian social media users, recognising that not all social media platforms are the same.

Noting the threat environment has evolved in the intervening period since the Senate Committee's report was published, a Dutton Coalition Government will seek the advice of our national security agencies and consider how best to implement this approach to address foreign interference through social media and protect our values, freedoms and way of life.

-Letter from the PM, continued:

I thank you again for your letter and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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Q15: The Greens

In the upcoming Federal election, will it be your party's policy that ALP candidates and Coalition candidates should preference each other ahead of the Greens' candidates?

The Liberal Party will not be doing any deals with the Greens.

Labor cannot make the same commitment, as the Prime Minister has admitted:

"If you ask me 'do you rule out governing in coalition with the Greens?' The answer is no! no!" - Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, 31 March 2025.

Not answered.



Liberal Party answers adopted by Liberal candidate Brad Cole

Labor Party answers adopted by Labor candidate Matt Thistlethwaite

Foreign Policy

Q16: *Recognising a Palestinian State*

Under a government formed by your party, would Australia recognise a State of Palestine, other than as an outcome of a negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians? If the answer is other than 'No', please specify:

- (a) which Palestinian entity Australia would recognise;
- (b) what processes a government led by your party would go through before making a decision about the matter.

No. The Coalition supports Australia's longstanding position in support of a two-state solution – but only one that is negotiated between the parties.

A two-state solution is essential to long-term peace and security in the region. The Albanese Labor Government 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.

The Albanese Labor Government has made clear that we will be guided by whether recognition of a Palestinian state will advance the cause of a just and enduring peace. Like many in the international community, Australia has been frustrated by the lack of progress towards a two- state solution. And like Canada, Germany, the UK and other partners, the Albanese Labor Government no longer sees recognition as only occurring at the end of the process. It could occur as part of a peace process. The Albanese Labor Government has made clear that it sees no role for Hamas in any future Palestinian state.

Q17: *Jerusalem*

Will a government formed by your party restore Australia's recognition of west Jerusalem as Israel's capital?

The Coalition continues to oppose Labor's decision to change Australia's recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital. We support the right of nations to determine their own capital.

If elected we will not repeat Labor's diabolical failure of process on this issue, which saw them first deny any change, then within 24 hours, announce a significant change in Australia's position, all on an important Jewish holiday, without any consultation.

In contrast, the Coalition will conduct an orderly and professional consultation process, including discussions with local community groups, our agencies, and Israel's Government.

In line with the overwhelming majority of the international community and the previous longstanding and bipartisan Australian position for many decades, the Albanese Labor Government believes the status of Jerusalem should be resolved as part of peace negotiations and a two-state solution.



Liberal Party answers adopted by Liberal candidate Brad Cole

Labor Party answers adopted by Labor candidate Matt Thistlethwaite

Foreign Policy

Q18: *Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS)*

In the words of its framers, BDS seeks to achieve the complete and total isolation of the State of Israel and rejects the concepts of Jewish peoplehood and collective self-determination. What is your party's position on BDS?

The Coalition rejects the BDS movement. There is a deep undercurrent of antisemitism within the BDS campaign, despite the protests to the contrary by its advocates.

The Albanese Labor Government opposes the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Q19: *United Nations General Assembly*

Since 2022, Australia has changed its votes at the UN General Assembly on at least seven resolutions that are regularly put forward in relation to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Israel has protested that each of these changes has moved Australia to being less supportive of Israel than previously. If elected to government, would your party maintain Australia's current voting patterns in UN agencies concerning Israel or would it propose to alter these positions in support of Israel? If the latter, what changes would it make?

If elected, a Dutton Coalition Government will revert to Australia's previously longstanding positions on UN votes relating to Israel, rejecting Labor's recent unilateral changes which have been made for purely domestic political reasons.

The Coalition remains steadfast in our opposition to the UN's disproportionate focus on Israel.

Labor's failure to support a statement in the UN Human Rights Council objecting to this disproportionate focus is a further example of Labor's unilateral changes to previously longstanding Australian positions. The Coalition believes the UN should address all human rights concerns, regardless of country.

An Albanese Labor Government will continue to vote in the United Nations in support of a just and enduring peace and a two-state solution – a Palestinian state and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders

Foreign Policy

Q20: People-to-people peace-building

As an alternative to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), should Australian aid for Palestinians be re-directed to programs which build economic, technological, health-care and other capacity in Palestinian society through direct cross-border partnerships between Israelis and Palestinians, such as Project Rozana and the programs that have been established by the US under the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act and by the EU, through the EU Peacebuilding Initiative (EUPI)?

The Coalition has consistently called for increased humanitarian aid to reach innocent civilians in Gaza, who desperately need it.

We have provided bipartisan support for Australian commitments for humanitarian aid to Gaza, but only where it can be provided through trusted organisations. A Dutton Coalition Government will cease all Australian funding to UNRWA, and instead direct this funding to trusted organisations to deliver support for Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

The Albanese Labor Government is committed to providing effective and transparent aid to the Palestinian people, which we believe can help build the institutions for statehood and address urgent development and humanitarian needs. It is critically important, however, that aid and program delivery goes directly to benefit those who are most in need. That is why Australian funding is only provided under stringent controls and safeguards to ensure it is used only for humanitarian purposes and complies with Australian law.

The Albanese Labor Government recognises the importance of people-to-people peacebuilding to securing an enduring peace for Israelis and Palestinians. We have committed to providing \$4 million to Project Rozana to support their work boosting the Palestinian health sector by addressing critical gaps in rehabilitation services and capacity-building of health workers.

Foreign Policy

Q21: *Iran*

According to the US State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism published on 12 December 2024 "Globally, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC- QF) and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security remained Iran's primary actors involved in supporting terrorist recruitment, financing, and plotting across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.." Would a government formed by your party list the IRGC as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code 1995 (Cth).

There is significant evidence that the IRGC is engaged in terrorist activity, and Australia's laws should reflect this reality. Failing to do so can only further diminish Australia's standing and demonstrates the Albanese Government's ongoing failure to adequately support international action such as the multi-nation operation against Iran-backed Houthi terrorism in the Red Sea.

The Coalition has repeatedly provided our bipartisan support for any actions required to enable the listing of the IRGC as a terrorist organisation, as Canada and the United States have already done.

A Dutton Coalition Government will seek immediate advice from our security agencies about the listing of the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

The Albanese Labor Government has taken stronger action against Iran than any previous Australian Government. We have worked deliberately and strategically with partners to apply pressure on the Iranian regime, including by imposing sanctions on 200 Iranian-linked persons and entities.

Labor governments have long understood the threat the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) poses to international security, and to its own people. The Gillard Government put broad-based sanctions on the IRGC as a whole in 2010. The Albanese Government has also recognised the threat they present. That is why we have used the tools available to us to take meaningful action, including sanctioning almost 100 IRGC linked individuals and entities since September 2022, including the Commander of the IRGC Qods Force and the IRGC Navy.

Under the Criminal Code, listings apply to non-state actors - they do not apply to state actors. The IRGC is a part of the Iranian state. This is the same legislation that was in place during the former Liberal and National governments.

The Albanese Labor Government remains deeply concerned about the destabilising activities of Iran and its affiliated groups. Labor supported the listing of Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organisations in their entirety and have joined partners in sanctioning their leaders since coming to government. On 24 May 2024, the Albanese Labor Government also listed the Houthis as a terrorist organisation.

We have been unequivocal in our condemnation of Hamas for its atrocities on 7 October 2023, and its ongoing acts of terror. The Albanese Labor Government has pressed countries with influence over Hamas to release hostages immediately, unconditionally and with dignity.



Liberal Party answers adopted by Liberal candidate Brad Cole



Labor Party answers adopted by Labor candidate Matt Thistlethwaite

Foreign Policy

Q22: *Abraham Accords*

What is your party's view of the Abraham Accords and the normalisation of relations between Israel and States which were previously hostile to it, namely the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco? What if anything does your party believe Australia should do to encourage other Arab League states to normalise relations with Israel?

The Coalition wants to see peace for Israelis and Palestinians. Not just physical security, but economic security. This will take significant regional leadership. The Abraham Accords provide a strong basis for Arab states to play a bigger role in securing peace in the wider region.

The Accords have been tested, and held, since the October 7 attacks and will only be stronger if other nations, like Saudi Arabia, can reach agreement with Israel in the future and join the Accords.

The Albanese Labor Government welcomes Israel's normalisation of relations with its neighbours under the Abraham Accords.

The Albanese Labor Government supports regional initiatives that contribute to long-term peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians.

The Albanese Labor Government will continue to work with the international community towards a two-state solution.

2025 FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

MACNAMARA



2025 FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

BRADFIELD



2025 FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
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