



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024



KITCHEN-TABLE CONVERSATIONS
ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

A toolkit for hosting Kitchen-Table Conversations for Gaza & Palestine

BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT & SANCTIONS (BDS)
ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

A toolkit for the BDS strategy

LOCAL COUNCIL MOTIONS
ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

A toolkit for passing council motions on Gaza

Australia reinstates support for UNRWA and commits additional aid to Gaza

ADVOCACY TOOLKITS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



The Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) recognises that we live and work on unceded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. We acknowledge Elders past and present and their role as custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the dispossession and ongoing harm done to First Nations peoples by colonisation and we are inspired by their fight for rights and justice. We pledge to support their work. APAN proudly Pays the Rent.

MISSION

The Network exists to advocate for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine, leading to a just, comprehensive and sustainable peace established within the framework of UN resolutions and international and humanitarian law.

APAN MEMBERS ARE DIVERSE
APAN OFFERS A VOICE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS
WE WORK IN THE COMMUNITY, IN PARLIAMENT, WITH THE MEDIA

ACNC

Australia Palestine Advocacy Network is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.
ABN 24 150 565 508



APAN EXECUTIVE

President: Nasser Mashni

Vice President: Claire Moore

Secretary: Jon Jureidini

Treasurer: Bruce Francis

General executive members:

Hiba Farra

Lama Alqasem

Ramia Abdo Sultan

Jordy Silverstein

Meriki Onus

President
Nasser Mashni



Vice President
Claire Moore



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Jon Jureidini



Treasurer
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Hiba Farra



Meriki Onus



Ramia Abdo Sultan



Jordy Silverstein



Lama Alqasem



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THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA CONTINUES AND OUR LANDS ARE STILL OCCUPIED

This report is written with a heavy heart, as we enter the 13th month of the genocide in Gaza and 76th year of Israel's colonisation of Palestine.

Israel's unchecked barbarity has spread to Lebanon, Syria, and Iran - and the whole region faces the escalating threat of the Zionist project.

The crimes we witness today are nothing new - they are an extension of the racist settler colonial construct that is Zionism. The barbarity unfolding on our screens is unlike anything I have seen in my decades of advocacy for Palestine.

The dehumanisation and othering of Palestinians, be it in government policy or in the media, is a stark reminder of just how embedded anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia are.

We must not be discouraged. As daunting as it may seem, the movement for justice for Palestine has never been stronger, more resourced or more capable. Whilst the journey ahead may be long and challenging, I am convinced justice is nearer than ever and that the work remains both achievable and essential.

The movement for Palestine needs each and every one of us, and more.

Thousands march the streets each week. The movement is growing as is our constituency, and it is APAN's obligation to harness people of goodwill to demand the changes necessary to hold apartheid Israel to account.

The team continues to grow and we are excited to announce that we have employed a full-time BDS campaigner. The Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions campaign will be a focus of our work in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

Palestinians have a right to freedom, justice and equality from the river to the sea. Our efforts will be for nothing less.

Our advocacy continues to be informed and shaped by events on the ground and our work is guided by Palestinian values, political demands and International Law. This is to ensure our work is effective in bringing freedom, justice and equality to all Palestinians.

In doing so, we respect and honour the lands from which we advocate. The liberation of Palestine is incomplete without First Nations justice, just as it is incomplete so long as anyone is oppressed. We implore and advocate for intersectionality as both a strategy and a moral stance. In the words of Angela Davis, "if they come for me in the morning, they will come for you in the night."

It continues to be my exceeding honour to work with your brilliant APAN Executive, staff members and volunteers.



Nasser Mashni
President



ACTIVITIES

CAMPAIGNS

Supporting grassroots Local Council motion campaigns

At the second Palestine Solidarity Conference, we released and workshopped toolkits relating to council motions for Palestine. These two toolkits were designed to encourage new community groups, especially in regional or remote areas, to begin organising to pass motions in their communities. These toolkits have been well received and have assisted several groups around the continent to organise their communities.

Following the conference, we have provided guidance and support to groups beyond the ceasefire motion, with many groups across Victoria and NSW now exploring BDS motions, the implementation of Apartheid-Free Zones, as well as local council election campaigns.

One of the successful outcomes of this year's Palestine Solidarity Conference was the formation of a coalition and subsequent collective campaign called 'Western Bloc for Palestine'. At the conference, relationships were built between several pro-Palestinian grassroots groups based in a range of council areas throughout the western suburbs of Melbourne. As a result of this relationship building and the strategy sessions at the conference, eight of these groups have come together to coordinate BDS campaigning across the western suburbs to:

- Call on their councils to commit to and action BDS by reviewing their contracts and procurement policies in relation to international suppliers.
- Demand all candidates running for council election declare their position on solidarity with Palestine and actioning BDS once elected.



THE GREEK HERALD

NEWS SPORTS COMMUNITY CULTURE LIFESTYLE NOTICES

Home > News > Australia > Mass resignations from Inner West Council's Multicultural Committee after ceasefire motion

Mass resignations from Inner West Council's Multicultural Committee after ceasefire motion



Members of the Inner West Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee.

AUTHOR: Andriana Simos DATE: 28/11/2023 CATEGORY: News Australia Politics

Recent posts

- Cultural programs for diaspora Cypriots in Australia now accepting applications 01/02/2024
- George Kambosos Jr says 'legacy on the line' ahead of biggest fight in Australian history 01/02/2024
- Marcus Stoinis re-signs with Melbourne Stars for three years 01/02/2024
- Former Newington College student Tony Retsof protests against move to go co-ed 01/02/2024
- Jon Adgemis in refinancing talks over pub group's \$500 million debt 01/02/2024

ACTIVITIES

CAMPAIGNS

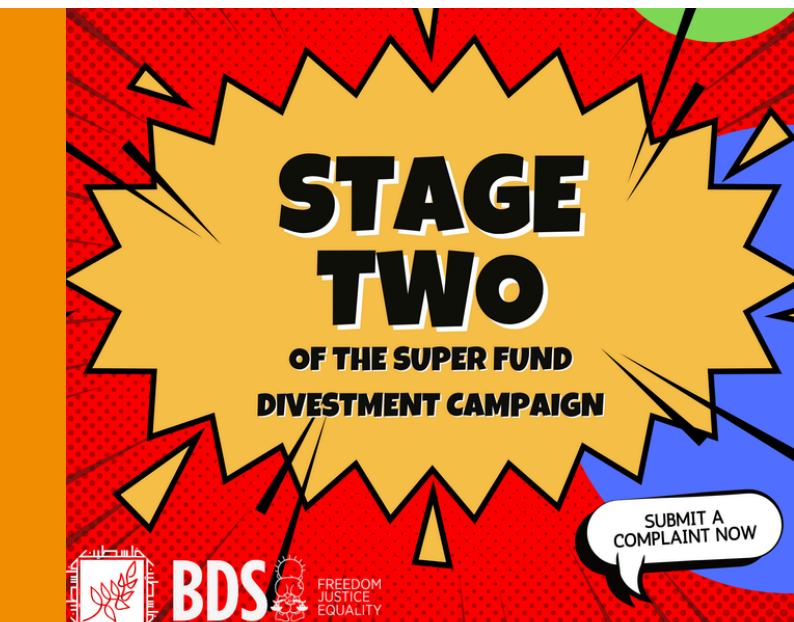
Resourcing a full-time BDS campaigner

One of the major changes that APAN has made has been to allocate resources to staff a full-time BDS campaigner. Below are some of the BDS campaigns we've worked on so far.

Super fund campaign

The BDS 'Check your Super' divestment campaign has engaged over 10,000 people to join a collective action which has resulted in several superannuation funds either partially or completely divesting from companies which the UNHRC has listed as linked to illegal Israeli settlements. The goal of the BDS super fund campaign is to convince as many super funds as possible to divest from companies that are profiting from Israel's oppression of Palestinians and dispossession of Palestinian land. Our strategy is to use a combination of internal pressure (e.g. demands for divestment from super fund's own members) and external pressure (e.g. public facing tactics that contrast super funds' claims to be 'ethical investors' with the reality of the companies they are investing in) to convince funds to divest out of fear of the reputational and financial risk if they don't.

We are now at phase two of the campaign, which focuses on increasing the internal pressure on super funds' investment managers through thousands of super fund members submitting formal complaints about their funds' investment strategies.



ACTIVITIES

CAMPAIGNS

Elected representative joint statement

In early December 2023, APAN supported the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Palestine group to launch and promote a statement of support for Palestine for elected representatives, current and former, from all levels of government. This letter not only recognised the historical and political context of the current Israeli violence in Gaza, but also called upon the Australian Government to:

- Publicly advocate for an immediate permanent ceasefire, to continue to call for the release of all hostages and urge that all parties fully comply with international standards,
- Recognise Palestine as a state that is entitled to be free of occupation, and
- Examine its relationship with Israel, with a focus on positively contributing to the resolution of this intolerable and dangerous situation that threatens the people of Israel and Palestine and the entire international community.

Australian policy shifts on Palestine

APAN has noted three key policy shifts on Australian policy with regards to Palestine during the past six months.

The first was the ALP's confirmation of its intention to recognise Palestine. As mentioned earlier in this report, while this move was not the definitive statement of recognition that APAN hoped for, it still brings Australia closer to honouring Palestinian self-determination and condemnation of Israel's disregard for international law.

The ALP's move to begin referring to Israeli settlements in the West Bank as "illegal" and the Palestinian territories as "occupied" was also a significant policy move, which brought Australian policy into line with the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union.

Most recently, in December 2023, Australia voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly resolution for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, following previous abstentions from voting on similar motions. In voting in favour of the resolution, it joined 152 other supportive nations, while only 10 nations including the US voted against the resolution, and 23 others including the UK abstained.



ACTIVITIES

RESOURCES

We have centralised all resources on our website to <https://apan.org.au/resources> for downloadables.

Advocacy Toolkits

On the last day of the Palestine Solidarity Conference, we launched our advocacy toolkit resources for people to take to their respective communities and local organisations. These toolkits were designed to mobilise and organise the Palestine solidarity movement to maximise focus and coordination. The toolkits are organised into topics:

1. Local Council Motions
2. Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS)
3. Kitchen-Table Conversations
4. ALGA
5. Conversation Skills Guide



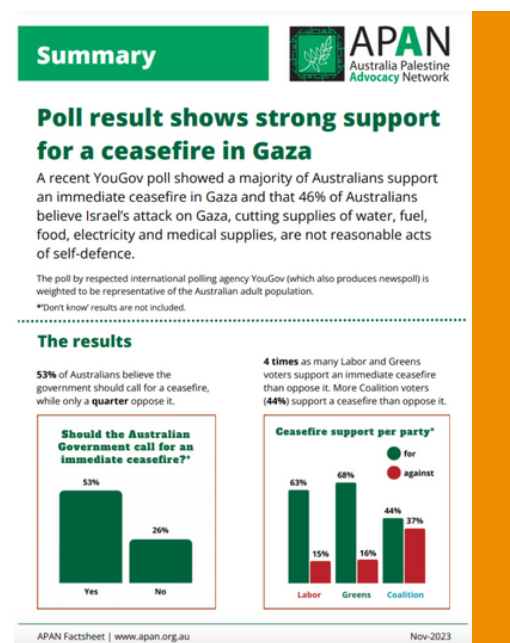
Fact sheets - printables

We have added four new fact sheets to our resources page. The fact sheets can be viewed online or downloaded as PDF files to print or export electronically. You can find them all via <https://apan.org.au/factsheets>

Opinion poll on ceasefire and government response to Israeli violence in Gaza

Ahead of our lobbying trip to federal parliament in mid-November 2023, APAN conducted an [opinion poll](#) via YouGov, seeking to understand public opinion on Israel’s attacks on Gaza, and the degree of support for a ceasefire. This poll not only found that the majority of respondents supported a ceasefire, but that respondents’ votes at a federal election could be influenced (positively) by the Labor Government’s call for a ceasefire.

This poll was particularly timely, enabling APAN to create a persuasive [factsheet](#) to take to MPs during our November lobbying trip to help explain the broad public support for a stronger stance against Israel’s violence in Gaza.



ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY ORGANISING

The 2024 Palestine Solidarity Conference was held on 10-12 May at Victoria Trades Hall in Melbourne. The three-day conference was attended by 300 participants from across the country.

The organising committee of the Palestine Solidarity Conference consisted of internal as well as external stakeholders, forming a broad and diverse coalition of civil society organisations.

The conference program extended for three days:

- **Day 1** The Palestinian cause, core values and political demands
- **Day 2** Intersectionality: expanding our solidarity networks
- **Day 3** Translating our grassroots support into political power.

Sessions were a mixture of plenaries, in-depth lectures and hands-on planning workshops. The plenaries and most of the in-depth lectures were Auslan-interpreted and available via zoom for accessibility.

Since the conference, many participants have started separate campaigns, built relations with other groups and set up ongoing structures for collaborative work across states.

Most notably, relationship building between eight local pro-Palestinian groups from various council areas in Melbourne's west have come together to build a collective local council campaign; the development of a campaign to encourage live music and hospitality venues to become 'Aparthied Free Zones' led by rank and file Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) members; and the formation of a grassroots coalition of environmental and climate justice organisations, anti-war activist groups, location based pro-Palestinian community groups, and anti-Zionist Jewish groups to come together to translate the global 'Boycott Caltex' campaign into an Australian context.



COMMUNITY ORGANISING

Vigil For Gaza

Together with a coalition of community organisations such as PCA, Beit Jala Association, Casey Friends of Palestine and other community members, APAN has organised a vigil for Gaza in October 2023. What was meant to be a Palestine National Day celebration was transformed to a vigil by the organising committee, given the significant escalation of bombardments on the Gaza strip. The vigil at Federation Square in Melbourne was attended by 5,000 people who came together as a community to give expression to their collective grief. The Palestinian flag flew high and the community came together to mourn and heal. The program included spoken word from Gazan poet and writer Samah Sabawi, a tribute to the martyrs by Palestinian artists and a speech by Ingrid Stitt, Minister of Multicultural Affairs.



Palestinian Youth Advocacy & Strategic Communications training

For the fourth year in a row, APAN organised intensive training in advocacy for Palestinian youth. Eighteen young Palestinians from NSW, Queensland, WA and well as Victoria, gathered in Melbourne for three days to learn, connect, organise, plan and strategise together. The workshop offered training in strategic communication, media engagement, political lobbying and concluded on the third day with a lecture on the International Law from UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese. The majority of trainees have proceeded to take proactive roles in their respective states through local groups and organisations in the community as well as on university campuses.



COMMUNITY ORGANISING

Supporting student encampments

APAN supported student leaders across multiple campuses with media training, strategy and lobbying.

APAN partnered with the Foundation of Young Australians (FYA) to develop and deliver one-on-one and group training sessions. These trainings supported over 50 students at Melbourne University, University of Sydney, Curtin University in WA and ANU with this training.

A number of trainees were interviewed by mainstream media (eg, The Project), others provided commentary for written pieces and or spoke with radio channels (including 3CR, ABC). APAN also utilised its networks to connect students in leadership of the encampments across the country to coordinate their actions and messaging.

Some of the Group of Eight (Go8) Universities have committed to disclosing their ties to weapons companies, and the University of Sydney and Curtin University committing also to forming Divestment Working Groups. These small victories come at a cost, with dozens of students facing academic misconduct charges for their role in organising protests on campus.



ACTIVITIES

INTERNSHIPS

APAN's Palestinian Youth Internship continues to demonstrate its value by engaging, upskilling, and empowering young Palestinians to take on leadership roles across the movement, especially at a time when centering and amplifying Palestinian voices is more crucial than ever.

The fourth cycle of the internship programme commenced in March, and has engaged two young Palestinian students, one of whom is based in WA, Razanne Al Abdali, and the second, Hala Hussein, from Melbourne, Victoria.

The internship program sought to provide an overarching overview into APAN's general work, as well as hands-on, in-depth experience into one of APAN's major areas of focus; community organising, campaigning and political lobbying. Due to the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the changes it introduced to APAN's areas of focus and workload, interns have been exposed to a much greater variety of campaigns and initiatives.

During the first phase of the internship, interns were involved in the planning of the second Palestine Solidarity Conference as a part of the organising committee and were tasked with liaising with external stakeholders to secure endorsements, partnership, as well as logistical support and working closely with volunteers during the conference.

A promotional banner for the APAN Palestinian Youth Internship. It features a green background with a yellow and red megaphone icon at the top left and bottom right. The text reads: "Join the APAN PALESTINIAN YOUTH INTERNSHIP". Below this is a white button with "APPLY TODAY" and a magnifying glass icon. Underneath is a green button with "SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO CONTACT@APAN.ORG.AU" and double arrow icons. At the bottom, the website "WWW.APAN.ORG.AU" is displayed.

Join the APAN
**PALESTINIAN
YOUTH
INTERNSHIP**

APPLY TODAY 🔍

SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO
CONTACT@APAN.ORG.AU ⏪ ⏩

WWW.APAN.ORG.AU

They played a key role in developing resources for APAN including the BDS toolkit and other supporting resources for the conference.

Upon completion of the first phase of the internship, the interns were given the opportunity to choose a specific area of APAN's work that they would continue focusing on. Razanne chose community organising and community development, and Hala opted for political lobbying.

APAN interns continue to be active in other networks and community organisations, and continue to carry the knowledge they gain from working within APAN to a wider audience. Both interns, Hala and Razanne, are beneficiaries of APAN's youth advocacy training and have maintained engagement with APAN and the broader movement since. The fourth internship cycle concluded at the end of August 2024.

ACTIVITIES

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

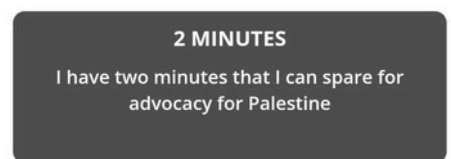
APAN's reach continued to grow throughout the year and our mailing list is at 87,000 supporters, which we utilise to engage people in our campaigns, and to highlight pro-Palestinian events and activities around Australia. We regularly see an email engagement rate far above the industry standard, with feedback received indicating people rely on APAN to provide updates and context about campaigns and actions they can take.

APAN has continued to send a weekly 'PalNews' email to every state and federal Parliamentarian, as well as journalists, and others who have expressed interest. This email provides a brief snapshot of key news to keep abreast of Palestine-related issues on a local and international level.

APAN's social media presence has also grown this past year, reaching 49,000 followers on Instagram. In addition to regular informative posts, APAN also collaborates with other organisations and collectives who put up content in line with APAN's strategic goal and values.



Due to a high demand of supporters asking what next actions/steps they can take to mobilise for Palestine, we redesigned our 'Take Action' page to split our actions up into 2 minute, 2 hour and 2 week actions



APAN's website gained large traction over this time period and we worked to streamline event uploads through a new event upload system.

MEDIA

Throughout the past 12 months, APAN's media presence has continued to increase, with journalists regularly including our views and positions in their reporting. This has proved particularly true during domestic political shifts, for example when the Australian Government froze and then reinstated UNRWA funding. APAN has fielded countless media enquiries, written and sent 71 press releases and has written six op eds during the period July 2023 - June 2024, with journalists now regularly seeking out our views.

Here is some of the media coverage that APAN was featured in during the period July 2023 - June 2024.



Labor to harden position on Palestine

James Massola and Matthew Knott
Updated August 8, 2023 — 6:40pm, first published at 12:58pm

Labor will seek to avert a damaging internal split over the Israel-Palestine conflict by hardening its language on the Palestinian territories, with the federal government to officially refer to Israel's settlements in the West Bank as "illegal" and the territories as "occupied".

Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced the shift in Tuesday's caucus briefing for Labor MPs, prompting the opposition to accuse her of showing more concern for factional tensions than international diplomacy.



Foreign Minister Penny Wong has announced a hardening of Labor's position on Palestine. ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN



"A Slow Burn Ethnic Cleanse": APAN's Nasser Mashni on the South African ICJ Genocide Case

BY PAUL GREGGORE PUBLISHED ON 9 JAN 2024 ✓ FACT CHECKED



Palestinian Australians awake to daily nightmare

Musa Al-Madhoun was watching TV when he learnt an Israeli missile had destroyed the Al-Madhoun family compound in Beit Lahia, killing 14 people.

Chip Le Grand
OCTOBER 29, 2023

Australian Palestinian Advocacy Network president Nasser Mashni said children in Gaza were drinking salt water from makeshift wells, hospitals had cut power to life-saving humidicribs and dialysis machines and some parents had taken to writing name tags on their children's arms and legs so their bodies can be identified. The cessation of fuel supplies has left Gaza without diesel to power desalination pumps, which are needed to make water from the aquifer beneath the territory drinkable.



31 Oct 2023 08:00 AEST

Australia Palestine Advocacy Network accuses former PMs of 'gut-wrenching hypocrisy'

Yesterday, all living former prime ministers of Australia (except Paul Keating) co-signed a statement regarding the Israel-Hamas war.

In response, the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) has accused the prime ministers of allowing themselves to be used as a "tool" to "minimise Israel's gross violations of international law for the past 75 years".

A statement from the group reads:

The statement, drafted by the Zionist Federation of Australia, demonstrated explicit pro-Israel bias, failing to recognise Israeli responsibility for bombings that have already killed more than 8000 people in Gaza.

The joint letter says the prime ministers stand with all Jewish Australians and the Australian Palestinian community for the "suffering" being experienced. It also calls for humanitarian access to Gaza and reaffirms their support for a two-state solution.

APAN president Nasser Mashni said the statement rang "hollow":

Their significant platform should have been used to echo calls by the United Nations for an immediate ceasefire.

How the former prime ministers could have the audacity to quote religious texts about peace while Israel is carpet bombing two million people in Gaza is gut-wrenching hypocrisy.



READ THE DIPLOMAT. KNOW THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Agony for Australia's Palestinian Community as War Rages on in Gaza

"So, there's the pain of the suffering in Palestine – our homeland – but then there's the feeling of abandonment. It's an otherness. It's like we don't belong in Australia, we don't belong on Earth almost."

By Declan Brennan
November 25, 2023



© iStock/Dephotphoto



'Gaza this ... Hamas that': the rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia in Australia

Slurs and insults hurled in the streets and alleged assaults leave Jewish and Arab communities nervous and in fear

- Follow our Australia news live blog for latest updates
- Get our morning and afternoon news emails, free app or daily news podcast



© The Australia Palestine Advocacy Network's Jessica Morrison is hearing stories of young people being targeted, particularly at school. Photograph: Mike Bowers/The Guardian



Coming Up: Monday, 13 November

Broadcast Mon 13 Nov 2023 at 9:30pm



Australian student protests show US campus divisions over Gaza war are going global

By Sherry Shihomi and Rogan Kasher, CNN
© 2023 CNN. Updated 05:04 PM EDT, Thu May 2, 2024



The flag beds were set up at the University of Sydney on April 23, now there are around 50,000. Reuters/CNN

The Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) has called on Australian universities to protect the right of students to peaceful protest, saying their action is justified.

"It is unconscionable that our educational institutions are cultivating relationships with a genocidal regime and companies and entities that profit from Israel's brutality towards Palestinians," said APAN President Nasser Mashni.

ACTIVITIES

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

ALP National Conference

In August 2023 APAN participated in the ALP National Conference, hosting a very successful fringe event attended by parliamentary and union speakers who had just returned from APAN study tours. APAN printed hundreds of "Palestine: It's Time" badges which delegates wore with pride during the conference.



Lobbying

During this reporting period, APAN conducted four week-long lobbying trips to federal parliament – in October 2023, November 2023, March 2024 and June 2024. The November 2023 trip coincided with UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese's visit to Australia. 2024 lobbying trips held the primary objective of highlighting Australia's obligations under the Genocide Convention, as it pertains to Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza. The final of these trips was strategically timed following impactful statements by former ALP, now Independent Senator Fatima Payman, which opened political space for increased engagement on Palestine-related issues among members of parliament.

During the four-day trip in June, our team met with a total of 32 politicians from across the political spectrum.

Purpose: The meetings aimed to advance several strategic objectives in response to the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the broader issues related to Palestine:

1. Advocate for stronger language
2. Promote action against arms transfers
3. Support sanctions and trade restrictions
4. Encourage support for international legal mechanisms
5. Address anti-Palestinian racism and IHRA definition issues
6. Continue building a strong political alliance for Palestine

Group of Eight (Go8) Universities

APAN met with the Go8 following on from the student encampments to discuss the imperative for universities to uphold students' and staff rights to protest and the importance of freedom of expression and academic independence, as well as discussing the alarming increase in anti-Palestinian racism on campuses.

ACTIVITIES

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Email campaigns

In the 12 months during this report, there were several email campaigns that APAN organised to apply pressure on relevant stakeholders.

- Calling on the Australian Government to call for a ceasefire and publicly condemn the genocide
- Calling on the Australian Government to support South Africa's legal case at the ICJ
- Calling on the Australian Government to support the ICC arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant
- Calling on the Australian Government to reinstate UNRWA funding and cut military ties to Israel

Each of these email campaigns echoed the demands we took to MPs' offices.

IHRA:

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism campaign continues to be one of the key campaigns for APAN. APAN sent letters to universities across the continent outlining the harms of adopting said definition and the implications it has for academic freedoms of staff and students on campus. Overall, APAN has corresponded with 15 universities, requested a FOI from five universities and met with the Vice Chancellor of Sydney University twice.

Most recently, APAN put out a sign on statement on IHRA that was signed by over 34,000 people.

APAN plans to pursue the IHRA campaign by continuing to engage key stakeholders and community groups and supporting them in applying pressure on universities as well as other public organisations.

Ceasefire, Humanitarian Aid & Justice Campaign

We launched our newest community organising campaign that will have an initial focus on calling for a permanent ceasefire, humanitarian aid for Gaza and accountability. This campaign aims to influence the Australian Government, is leveraging the recent surge in community outcry for Palestine, and seeks to provide new avenues for advocacy for recently activated supporters.

This campaign commenced with a new role and position hired in April. Several resources have been created for this campaign including fact sheets on the current genocide, educational social media pieces around the genocide, as well as conversation guide toolkits to assist participants in having meaningful conversations with new audiences.



ACTIVITIES

AUSTRALIAN POLICY SHIFTS ON PALESTINE

APAN has noted several key shifts in Australian policy with regards to Palestine during the past six months.

- Reinstating UNRWA funding

On 15 March 2024, the Australian Government announced its decision to restore funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), after freezing the funding on 27 January 2024. This announcement also included a broader financial package for UNICEF and other United Nations initiatives. The decision came on the back of intense [APAN](#) and community pressure, and letters and advocacy from [federal crossbenchers](#)

- Voting at the UN

May 2024 - Australia voted in favor of a UN General Assembly resolution that called on the Security Council to reconsider granting Palestine full membership and to expand its observer rights at the UN. This vote represented another slight shift in Australia's historical voting patterns regarding Palestine, reflecting a growing alignment with international calls for Palestinian self-determination.

- Federal and state funding for Palestine Action and Relief Australia

Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Ingrid Stitt, announced the allocation of \$125,000 of Victorian funding aimed at enabling PARA to extend its support services to newly arrived Palestinians in Victoria. Specifically, the funding was to support PARA in delivering tailored, culturally appropriate services.

- Language use

We have noted the first traces of what might be a significant shift in the language used by government representatives concerning Israel's conduct in Gaza, reflecting a growing acknowledgment of the severity of the situation. Recent news reports indicate that some within the Labor caucus are advocating for the Australian Government to explicitly use terms such as "genocide" and "apartheid" when discussing Israel's actions. This development represents a noteworthy change in the official discourse, aligning more closely with the gravity of the situation on the ground.

In June 2024, APAN engaged in extensive lobbying efforts, with the very specific goal of influencing this shift in government rhetoric. Our advocacy focused on urging Australian officials to adopt a more precise and critical terminology that accurately reflected the violations of international law Israel is perpetrating in Gaza and Palestine. The recent discussions within the Labor caucus, which suggest an openness to using these terms, underscore the impact of APAN's advocacy and highlight a potential shift towards a more robust and accurate portrayal of the crisis.

- Labor party voting - Senator Payman crossed the floor, resigned

Senator Fatima Payman's resignation from the Labor Party to join the crossbench marked a significant political moment. The move enabled Senator Payman to vote in alignment with her conscience and principles, particularly concerning Israel's genocide in Gaza, amplifying the strong language APAN, the legal and human rights community, and broader Australian community had been using for months. Her departure from the Labor Party and subsequent public stance garnered widespread support from community members, Labor rank-and-file, and union supporters, highlighting the demand for more robust Australian action against Israel's violations of international law. By publicly acknowledging the situation as genocide and advocating for measures such as arms embargoes, sanctions, and support for international legal proceedings, Senator Payman's stance reinforced APAN's push for stronger government accountability.

FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

APAN held two fundraising dinners in 2023: Sydney (September) and Melbourne (October).

These events were a great opportunity to raise our spirits as well as funds for APAN's work for Palestine. It was also an opportunity to engage the Palestinian and solidarity communities and network and platform Palestinian youth.



FINANCIALS

PROFIT AND LOSS JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

| INCOME | \$ |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| EVENTS | 66,358.89 |
| DONATIONS | 635,588.51 |
| FUNDRAISING EVENTS | 238,539.00 |
| GRANTS | 133,634.00 |
| MEMBERSHIP | 119,915.00 |
| INTEREST INCOME | 4,290.50 |
| STUDY TOURS | 14,430.00 |
| YOUTH PROGRAM | 1,588.10 |
| OTHER INCOME | 6,482.93 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 1,220,826.93 |

| EXPENSE | \$ |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| STAFFING | 412,021.50 |
| FUNDRAISING EVENT COSTS | 74,609.33 |
| EVENTS | 35,571.46 |
| CAMPAIGN EXPENSES | 23,037.69 |
| OFFICE EXPENSES | 28,909.74 |
| OPINION POLL | 8,000.00 |
| STUDY TOURS | 75,000.31 |
| TRAVEL | 38,394.37 |
| YOUTH PROGRAM EXPENSES | 2,079.91 |
| CONSULTING | 6,385.00 |
| PAY THE RENT | 1,300.00 |
| MEETING EXPENSES | 1,961.86 |
| OTHER | 1,641.54 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 708,912.71 |
| NET INCOME | 511,914.22 |

BALANCE SHEET AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

4:45 PM
25/09/24
Cash Basis

AUSTRALIA PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2024

| | <u>Jun 30, 24</u> |
|--|--------------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Chequing/Savings | |
| APAN Business Account | 38,070.80 |
| APAN NAB EWAY | 17,736.98 |
| APAN Saving Account | 249,027.94 |
| Term Deposit - Mat 29.01.25 | 300,000.00 |
| Term Deposit - Mat 29.07.24 | 100,000.00 |
| Term Deposit - Mat 29.10.24 | 125,910.00 |
| Total Chequing/Savings | <u>830,745.72</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 830,745.72 |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Laptop - LENOVO - YOGA S6 EVO | 1,235.73 |
| Laptop Accumulated Depreciation | -268.14 |
| Total Fixed Assets | <u>967.59</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>831,713.31</u> |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Payroll Liabilities | |
| PAYG Tax Withheld | 8,860.00 |
| Superannuation | 13,324.22 |
| Total Payroll Liabilities | <u>22,184.22</u> |
| Tax Payable | <u>-1,726.14</u> |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | <u>20,458.08</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>20,458.08</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | <u>20,458.08</u> |
| NET ASSETS | <u>811,255.23</u> |
| EQUITY | |
| Opening Bal Equity | 104,180.29 |
| Retained Earnings | 195,160.72 |
| Net Income | 511,914.22 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | <u>811,255.23</u> |

COMMITTEE'S DECLARATION

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared.

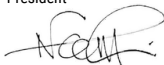
In the opinion of the committee:

1. The financial statements and notes, present fairly the association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The committee is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and the disclosure of all material and relevant information.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Mr Nasser Mashni
President



Mr Bruce Francis



AUSTRALIA PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK INCORPORATED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

AUSTRALIA PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK INCORPORATED INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

Report on the financial report

We have reviewed the accompanying 2024 financial report of Australia Palestine Advocacy Network Incorporated (APAN), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2024, and the Profit and Loss statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Committee responsibility for the 2024 financial report

The Committee of the APAN are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 2024 financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as those charged with governance determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the 2024 financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the 2024 financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. As the auditor of APAN, ASRE 2410 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of a 2024 financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

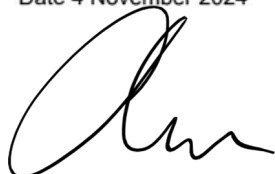
Basis for qualified conclusion

As is common for not-for-profit organisations, it is not practicable for the association to maintain an effective system of internal control over income including donations and fundraising activities until their initial entry into its financial records. Accordingly, our review on the association's income was limited to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We are therefore unable to express an opinion whether the income including donations and fundraising activities is complete.

Qualified opinion

Based on our review which is not an audit, with the exception of the matter described in the preceding paragraph, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of APAN as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Date 4 November 2024



Adrian Harris CPA
Mastin Harris Accountants
385 Tooronga Road
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

TREASURER'S REPORT

The public's response to the Israeli attacks and genocide in Gaza has seen an outpouring of support including financial support for APAN. As people witnessed the horror of what was taking place, they were extremely generous in contributing financially so that APAN could increase its staffing and work to respond to the situation.

This has meant that APAN has finished the financial year with a surplus of \$511,914 with donations increasing from \$64,768 to \$635,589 with thousands of supporters donating for the first time. Memberships have also grown with income increasing from \$67,750 to \$113,330 and our fundraising from dinners also increased from \$99,342 to \$238,539.

Over the year we have also increased our spending with staffing increasing from two full-time equivalent (FTE) to 4.8 FTE. Since the end of the financial year we have further increased staffing to 5.6 FTE. All areas of expenditure have grown – campaign expenses, office costs, travel as our work output has increased. Overall there was a 68% increase in expenses for the year and these expenses will continue to grow in the coming year as staff are employed for the full year and as our work output continues to grow.

There was an initial rush of financial support for APAN between October and the end of 2023. While financial support has continued, it has slowed from that peak period. However our work, staffing and

resourcing has continued to grow and will continue to grow not only while the genocide continues but long after as we seek a just and equitable outcome that allows Palestinians to live with dignity and freedom.

The biggest issue facing APAN financially is trying to balance the one-off outpouring of support we have received since October with our medium to longer term sustainability at a level to have real impact. Our financial outlook once the media's attention has shifted from Palestine is unknown. We need to build on the current support and turn that into long-term ongoing support if we are to maintain our current levels of work and staffing.

And while this year has seen a big increase in financial support it is still dwarfed by the financial resources available to the many Zionist organisations active in Australia.

Again we would like to thank the Broadley Trust for its ongoing support for APAN. The Trust's support enabled APAN to be in a situation where we could quickly and effectively increase our staffing, resourcing and work to meet the new circumstances brought on by Israel's genocide. This groundwork has been essential to us being able to have a media and political presence on a national level and to harness public support for Palestine.

In the coming year we have budgeted for a deficit as we make the transition from this one-off flow of support to a sustainable financial base. We have strategies in place to make that transition

TREASURER'S REPORT

firstly by increasing the number of regular monthly donors who provide us with support, having a regular ask for donations each year, continuing to grow our membership base while continuing with our other fundraising activities such as our fundraising dinners.

At the end of the financial year we had reserves of \$811,255. We also have a talented and committed staff team with a focus on both the short term urgency of stopping the genocide but also a strategy for the longer term to fight for a just and equitable outcome for all Palestinians.

Our heartfelt thanks to our members, donors, supporters, and volunteers who in their tens of thousands contribute to APAN, both financially and in terms of impact. APAN is a grassroots organisation as our financial reports demonstrate, and this is the key to us being a strong and sustainable organisation. Our thanks to you all for your support during the year and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.



Bruce Francis
Treasurer



THANK YOU

The Australia Palestine Advocacy Network would not be as successful as it is without our supporter base, our members, donors, patrons and volunteers.

With the support from our 1063 individual members (a two-fold increase in the last 12 months), and 35 organisational members, we've been able to effectively advocate for Palestinian self-determination in Australia, and continually shift the political compass within this country.

A special thanks to APAN's Executive, who work tirelessly to steer the organisation with wisdom and experience in campaigning and advocacy. We are proud to have a Palestinian majority board, knowing this is an important way of ensuring our Palestinian voices reflect the diversity of the Palestinian experience.

There aren't enough thanks to adequately acknowledge the large number of volunteers who continually commit their time and energy to showing up, and doing the hard work to ensure Palestinian justice and self-determination remain on the political radar in our communities and parliaments. The outpouring of support is

And a final thank you APAN's deeply committed and highly skilled staff. These are some of the most demanding times to be working in the Palestine movement and it is nothing short of a miracle that APAN has dedicated, experienced staff who are able to go out there and realise APAN's vision.



APAN

Australia Palestine
Advocacy Network

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