

# Senator Lyn Allison

## Notice of Motion

12 March 2008

Last week in response to Prime Minister Rudd's motion in the Australian Parliament commemorating the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Jewish state of Israel, Senator Allison tabled her own motion:

### Notice of Motion

On the next day of sitting I shall move that the Senate:

- a) Notes
  - i) that Amnesty International, CARE International UK, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Medecins du Monde UK, Oxfam, Save The Children UK and Trocaire, said last week that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is now worse than it was at any time since Israel occupied the Palestinian territories in 1967,
  - ii) that those organisations this week described Israel's blockade of Gaza as a collective punishment of the entire Gazan population of 1.5 million and said it was unacceptable and illegal,
  - iii) that the situation has worsened since Israel imposed the severe restrictions over the Gaza Strip and hindered the movement of residents and goods,
  - iv) that poverty levels in the Gaza Strip are rising and that hospitals are suffering 12 hour power cuts each day while water and sewage systems are close to collapse
  - v) that the UN emergency relief coordinator in Gaza says medical services are deteriorating, private industry has more or less collapsed, hospitals lack sufficient beds, drugs, resuscitation devices, needles and blood to meet the demand and more than 80 percent of the population are receiving emergency rations from UN agencies as their main source of food,

- vi) that 40 per cent of the Gaza population has access to water for only a few hours a day and that municipal authorities lack the fuel and spare parts needed to maintain water delivery infrastructure which could collapse at any time and that 40 million litres of raw or partially treated sewage is being pumped into the Mediterranean Sea every day with long term risks to the environment,
  - vii) that the International Save the Children Alliance advised that hundreds of thousands of children are among those most at risk in the crisis in Gaza with increased levels of chronic disease, anaemia, diarrhoea and malnutrition in children under five.
- b) Urges the Government to work with the international community and parties to the conflict to, as a matter of urgency
- i) establish procedures to manage the crossings and re-establish full humanitarian and commercial access to Gaza,
  - ii) enforce the full implementation of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and access which was announced by Secretary of State Rice in Jerusalem on 15 November 2005,
  - iii) develop a strategy that ensures the protection of children and other civilians in Gaza, while negotiations continue for an end to the violence and a comprehensive settlement of the conflict,
  - iv) increase the levels of humanitarian aid in Gaza to reflect the severity of need.
- c) Reminds the Government that there is no cause to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories while such crises exist and while peace and a separate state for Palestinians appears less likely than at any time in the last 60 years.