

Questions

1. JNF Australia publicly advertises that it provides financial support to IDF soldiers through its “Ach Gadol”, “Atidim Lone Soldier Education Support” and “Panim el Panim” programs. The “Ach Gadol” program provides “one-on-one support for lone IDF soldiers in Israel.” In light of findings by the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel that Israel has [committed genocide](#) in Gaza, does the ACNC consider that providing funding to a foreign army accused of committing genocide is consistent with JNF Australia's PBI and DGR requirements?
2. JNF Australia has also provided funding to Ateret Cohanim, an [extremist settler organisation](#). Given the Australian government’s position that Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory are illegal under international law, would such funding raise compliance concerns under the ACNC’s governance standards or external conduct standards?
3. Financial reports submitted by KKL-JNF (JNF Israel) indicate that JNF Australia has transferred millions of dollars directly to the Israeli entity, despite public assertions that they operate separately. In 2021, the KKL-JNF board [formally authorised](#) the use of its funds to purchase land in the West Bank for Jewish-only settlements. This practice is illegal under international law and has been widely condemned. Is the ACNC satisfied that JNF Australia providing funds for these settlements aligns with the obligations attached to Australian charitable registration and DGR endorsement?
4. In Canada, the Canada Revenue Agency [revoked](#) the charitable status of Jewish National Fund of Canada over the use of donations for projects linked to settlements and military infrastructure. Has the ACNC reviewed or considered similar compliance issues in relation to JNF Australia?

ACNC’s response

By law the ACNC cannot speak publicly about the circumstances of any charity, apart from referring to information published on the Charity Register, or [unless an exception applies](#) in limited circumstances.

The ACNC administers the ACNC Act and Regulations. Australian registered charities that operate outside of Australia must comply with the requirements of these laws, including the [Governance Standards](#) and [the External Conduct Standards](#) (ECS).

ECS 1 covers the way a charity manages its activities overseas and how it is required to control its finances and other resources including ensuring resources are applied in accordance with charitable purposes and that reasonable risk management processes are in place to protect against misuse. ECS 1 also requires registered charities to comply with Australian laws while operating overseas, including to take reasonable steps to ensure they

are not breaching international sanctions (this only applies where international law has been incorporated into Australian domestic legislation).

The United Nations' view that settling civilian populations in an occupied territory is contrary to international law has not, at this stage, been incorporated into domestic Australian law. The ACNC cannot enforce international law unless that law has been incorporated into Australian domestic legislation.

Speaking generally, the ACNC has a range of formal and informal tools to monitor charity compliance with obligations.

Our [Commissioner's Policy Statement: Compliance and enforcement](#) sets out the scope of our compliance functions and powers.

Anyone can [raise a concern](#) about a charity with the ACNC and we take all concerns seriously.

When a concern is raised, we use a standard independent process to review details and, if necessary, commence an investigation.

We will act when there is evidence that a charity has breached its obligations. The action we take is proportionate to the wrongdoing we find.

The ACNC works collaboratively with other Australian Government agencies to ensure the best placed agency takes a lead. If our intelligence work uncovers broader illegal activity, we [refer](#) these matters to the appropriate authorities.