

Question on notice no. 14

Portfolio question number: BET014

2026-27 Budget estimates

Economics Committee, Treasury Portfolio

Senator Mehreen Faruqi: asked the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission on 12 June 2026—

(1.Commissioner, recent reporting by Michael West Media alleges that ACNC-registered charities benefiting from Australian taxpayer subsidies have hosted fundraisers linked to the IDF and illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

2.Has the ACNC investigated whether Australians are effectively being forced to subsidise a military that leading human rights organisations and genocide experts all agree is committing genocide in Gaza?

3.Commissioner, Australians are increasingly concerned that taxpayer-subsidised charities may be helping channel funds to organisations linked to the IDF and illegal settlements while Israel commits genocide.

4.How many complaints has the ACNC received about Israel-linked charities since October 2023?

5.Has a single one of those complaints led to a formal investigation?

6.Australia considers Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank illegal under international law, yet Michael West Media alleges Australian charities have hosted fundraising campaigns tied to settlement communities in places like Tekoa and Hebron.

7.Has the ACNC investigated whether charitable funds subsidised by Australian taxpayers are supporting illegal occupation?

8.Commissioner, is a charity directing funds to organisations connected to a military committing genocide or illegal settlement activity compliant with External Conduct Standard 4, which requires charities to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of vulnerable individuals overseas?

9.Australians donate to charities believing they are relieving suffering, not potentially helping fund a military committing genocide and an illegal occupation.

10.Does the ACNC accept there is a profound moral and legal concern here, and what action has it taken in response?

Answer —

See attached response.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2026 - 2027

Agency: Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
Question No: SQ26-000265
Topic: Overseas charity conduct
Reference: Written (12 June 2026)
Senator: Mehreen Faruqi

Question:

1. Commissioner, recent reporting by Michael West Media alleges that ACNC-registered charities benefiting from Australian taxpayer subsidies have hosted fundraisers linked to the IDF and illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.
2. Has the ACNC investigated whether Australians are effectively being forced to subsidise a military that leading human rights organisations and genocide experts all agree is committing genocide in Gaza?
3. Commissioner, Australians are increasingly concerned that taxpayer-subsidised charities may be helping channel funds to organisations linked to the IDF and illegal settlements while Israel commits genocide.
4. How many complaints has the ACNC received about Israel-linked charities since October 2023?
5. Has a single one of those complaints led to a formal investigation?
6. Australia considers Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank illegal under international law, yet Michael West Media alleges Australian charities have hosted fundraising campaigns tied to settlement communities in places like Tekoa and Hebron.
7. Has the ACNC investigated whether charitable funds subsidised by Australian taxpayers are supporting illegal occupation?
8. Commissioner, is a charity directing funds to organisations connected to a military committing genocide or illegal settlement activity compliant with External Conduct Standard 4, which requires charities to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of vulnerable individuals overseas?
9. Australians donate to charities believing they are relieving suffering, not potentially helping fund a military committing genocide and an illegal occupation.
10. Does the ACNC accept there is a profound moral and legal concern here, and what action has it taken in response?

Answer:

1. The ACNC regulates charities' compliance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)*, including the Governance Standards and, where relevant, the External Conduct Standards governing overseas activities. Where there is a concern that a charity may be supporting the displacement of populations or an armed force of a foreign country in a way that breaches Australian law, a charity is at risk of breaching Governance Standard 3 and where relevant, External Conduct Standard 1. A charity found to be engaging in this sort of activity may also have a disqualifying purpose. Each of these matters will put a charity at risk of losing entitlement to maintain charity registration.
2. Between 7 October 2023 and 26 June 2026, the ACNC has received over 1,800 concerns associated with the Israel/Gaza conflict. These concerns relate to 89 charities and include

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complaints from the public, referrals from other government agencies, and internal intelligence. The concerns received reflect many views and positions relating to the conflict.

3. Four charities associated with concerns relating to the Israel/Gaza conflict have been subject to ACNC compliance activity. The ACNC continues to assess information received in relation to these matters and all other concerns received in accordance with our regulatory approach statement, which is available on the ACNC's website here: www.acnc.gov.au/raise-concern/regulating-charities/acnc-regulatory-approach-statement.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1 above.
5. Where concerns arise about a charity's activities overseas, the ACNC assesses compliance with the Governance Standards and External Conduct Standards, and entitlement to charitable registration more broadly, on a case-by-case basis.

As stated in response to question 1 above, generally speaking, where there is a concern that a charity may be supporting the displacement of populations or an armed force of a foreign country in a way that breaches Australian law, a charity is at risk of losing entitlement to maintain charity registration for a range of reasons, including failures to comply with applicable External Conduct Standards.

6. The ACNC takes all concerns about charities compliance with obligations seriously. In accordance with our regulatory approach statement, the ACNC will take action when:
 - a charity does not meet minimum standards as set out in our Governance Standards and External Conduct Standards (if applicable)
 - when an organisation is not, or is no longer eligible to be registered as, a charity, or
 - a charity does not meet its obligations under the ACNC Act to report to us, notify us of certain matters or keep proper records.

By law the ACNC cannot speak publicly about the circumstances of any particular charity, apart from referring to information published on the Charity Register, or unless an exception to the secrecy provisions set out in the ACNC Act applies.

Information about some types of ACNC regulatory actions are legally permitted to be published on the Charity Register, such as if we issue a warning or if we enter into an enforceable undertaking with a charity. These actions are published on the 'history' tab of a charity's Register record. If we revoke a charity's registration this is also permitted to be shown and appears in a red banner at the top of every page of a charity's Register record. However, some regulatory actions are not legally permitted to be shown on the Register, such as when we provide a charity with regulatory advice, or when we refer a matter on as it is outside our jurisdiction and is better handled by another agency, including the police or Australian Federal Police.

The absence of information on the Charity Register about regulatory actions taken in relation to a charity does not necessarily mean that no action or investigation has been undertaken.