

## Statement on the healthcare crisis in Gaza

**15 August 2025**

In response to the powerful testimonies and advocacy from communities affected by the conflict in Gaza, including from our own members, the RACGP acknowledges the immense and heartbreaking human toll of this ongoing humanitarian disaster.

As the Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner Giridharan Sivaraman highlighted in his recent address to the National Press Club, the Gaza conflict “has triggered a terrifying surge of antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, anti-Palestinian racism, and Islamophobic hate.”

The College echoes Mr Sivaraman’s recognition that the suffering of all people must be acknowledged:

“When the massacre of Jews and Israelis by Hamas on October 7 is not acknowledged, it dehumanises them – and by extension, Jewish and Israeli Australians,” Mr Sivaraman said. “When the devastation in Gaza – including the deaths of more than 18,000 children, the starvation of civilians, and the destruction of homes – is ignored, it dehumanises Palestinians, and by extension, Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim Australians.”

We hear this message, and we acknowledge the harm this conflict is causing for our members on all sides, their patients and our employees – including those in the Middle East, those who have sought refuge in Australia, any members working in the conflict zone, and those who have lost loved ones.

The RACGP supports the [World Medical Association Council Resolution on the Protection of Healthcare](#).

As doctors, we are deeply concerned by the growing numbers of civilian deaths and injuries, including among doctors, nurses and humanitarian workers.

Access to safe healthcare is a human right, and medical neutrality in conflict zones must never be sacrificed. We condemn any destruction of healthcare facilities, vehicles and other infrastructure and resources required to maintain human health and life, including restriction of aid and mass starvation. These acts are unacceptable and violate fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

We join with the global community in calling for international humanitarian law to be adhered to, and any alleged violations of international law to be swiftly investigated. We echo calls for a timely resolution to this conflict to end the suffering of innocent civilians on all sides.

As a medical college, our core values are grounded in compassion, equity, and the sanctity of life. In the face of this ongoing human tragedy, we reaffirm our commitment to these principles and stand in solidarity with all those affected by the conflict in Gaza and the broader rise in racially motivated actions in Australia and overseas.

We commit to moving forward with humility, listening and speaking with care, and acting in defence of humanity.

Support is available through our [GP Support Program](#) and for our staff through our [Employee Assistance Program](#).