

# Labor 4A Just Palestine (Queensland)

**Labor 4A Just Palestine** was formed in January 2009 in response to the ongoing conflict within the borders of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (the West bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza strip) and the belief that we in the Australian Labor Party need to take a more proactive and balanced approach to this critical issue.

This issue is also considered critical in terms of securing greater stability and security within the Middle East as a region. However, any peaceful solution requires a Just outcome for all, based on human rights and international law.

The core objectives of **Labor 4A Just Palestine** are:

1. Shifting Australian foreign policy to one that is balanced and in the interests of both Palestinians and Israelis alike.
2. Advocating a Just solution for both Palestinians and Israelis based on UN Resolutions and international law.
3. Education within the broader Labour movement.
4. Assisting and working with other like-minded peace advocates.

The establishment of the state of Israel was approved under UN Resolution 181 in 1947 to consist of 55% of historical Palestine, with 45% forming a Palestinian state and Jerusalem to be an international city under UN administration. Currently Israel is internationally recognised as consisting of 78% of historical Palestine.

There are now close to 500,000 illegal (under international law) settlers in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and this number continues to grow as it has done under every Israeli Government since 1967. Palestinian land, property and resources continue to be annexed by Israeli governments so as to accommodate these settlers.

The Likud party which leads the current Israeli government, states in its Platform that there will be no independent Palestinian State West of Jordan and that settlements will continue to be built, for clarification visit: [http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections/knesset15/elikud\\_m.htm](http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections/knesset15/elikud_m.htm)

In order to defeat militant Palestinians, the Palestinians need hope, but they need something to hope for, including the right to self-determination free of occupation.

Israel continues to defy international law and ignores UN Resolutions. A Just and viable independent Palestinian State is also in the long-term security interests of the state of Israel as increased settlements may eventually lead to a de-facto one state outcome.

Criticism of Israeli Government policy is not anti-Semitic, just as criticism of the former Howard Government did not make someone anti-Australian. **Labor 4A Just Palestine** has also been involved in various forums and discussions with members of the Jewish community. We are not anti-Jewish and oppose all forms of racism.

If you would like to become involved with **Labor 4A Just Palestine**, please forward the following details for the database to [dqf\\_forde@hotmail.com](mailto:dqf_forde@hotmail.com) ; your branch, membership number, email and phone number.

If you have any questions or need clarification on the issue, please also feel free to contact **Labor 4A Just Palestine** via the email above or David Forde on 0413 874 008.