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## Australia Pledges \$20M to Gaza, Urges End to Civilian Suffering

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Australia's federal government has announced a \$20 million humanitarian aid package for Gaza, as Foreign Minister Penny Wong intensifies diplomatic pressure on Israel over access to civilian support and adherence to international law.

On August 2, 2025, Foreign Minister Penny Wong confirmed the funding as part of the Albanese government's ongoing foreign policy agenda in the Middle East. The move reinforces Australia's alignment with international partners calling for a ceasefire and improved humanitarian conditions in Gaza. Wong, representing the Australian Labor Party (ALP), emphasized the need for Israel to remove restrictions on aid deliveries and comply with international humanitarian law. The policy announcement signals a stronger stance by the government amid mounting international scrutiny of the Gaza conflict.

The \$20 million package includes \$10 million for the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization to supply medical aid and another \$10 million to UNICEF for nutritional support targeting children in the region. These allocations were confirmed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and follow previous contributions totaling \$36.5 million between October 2023 and January 2024. Wong stated that the government remains committed to a rules-based international order and has consistently called for safe, sustained humanitarian access to Gaza.

The aid announcement comes shortly after Wong joined 27 other foreign ministers in a joint diplomatic statement on July 22, 2025, condemning Israeli restrictions on humanitarian access. The document cited over 800 civilian deaths at aid distribution points and demanded accountability. Wong also held private discussions with Israel's ambassador in Canberra, urging compliance with global norms.

While the ALP defends the initiative as a principled foreign policy measure, critics, including elements within the Opposition, have questioned the government's prioritization of international aid amidst domestic economic pressures. However, DFAT maintains that the funding supports long-standing commitments to humanitarian law and Australia's international reputation.

The government's handling of the Gaza response reflects a broader recalibration of Australia's Middle East policy. Wong's calls for a ceasefire and accountability signal that the Albanese government intends to remain diplomatically engaged, even as the complexity of the conflict limits Canberra's direct influence.