



THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear ~~Dr~~ Jensen

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2015 regarding the petition received by your committee on the future of the state of Israel.

Australia's friendship with Israel is steadfast, underpinned by deep historical and community ties. Australia firmly supports a two-state solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The Government is committed to a future where Israel and a Palestinian state exist side-by-side in peace and security, within internationally-recognised borders. Australia has repeatedly encouraged Israel and the Palestinians to return to direct negotiations towards this goal.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

~~Julie~~ Bishop

23 MAR 2015