



**The Hon Jason Clare MP**  
Minister for Education

The FOI People

By email: [foi+request-11446-139d433e@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-11446-139d433e@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear The FOI People

I refer to your request, received by the Minister for Education (the Minister) on 28 May 2024, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to the following documents:

*I am requesting the following documents under the FOI act:*

*All public speeches made by the Minister for Education that contain a condemnation about the killing of children in the occupied Palestinian Territories, specifically in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the 7th October 2023. I require all draft and final versions of these speeches.*

**Decision**

I am authorised to make decisions under the FOI Act on behalf of the Minister.

I have decided to refuse your request pursuant to subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act on the basis that I am satisfied that ‘official documents of a Minister’, within the meaning of the FOI Act, that fall within the scope of your request do not exist.

**Reasons for decision**

An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access under subsection 24A(1) of the FOI Act if:

*(a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document; and*

*(b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:*

- (i) is in the agency’s or Minister’s possession but cannot be found; or*
- (ii) does not exist.*

**Official documents of a Minister**

Section 11(1)(b) of the FOI Act provides that subject to the FOI Act, every person has a legally enforceable right to obtain access in accordance with the FOI Act, to an official document of a

Minister, unless the document is exempt.

Section 4(1) of the FOI Act provides that an ‘official document of a Minister’ means “*a document that is in the possession of a Minister... in his or her capacity as a Minister, being a document that relates to the affairs of an agency or of a Department of State...*”.

Paragraph 2.50 of the guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (FOI Guidelines) relevantly provides that:

Documents held by a minister that do not ‘relate to the affairs of an agency’ include:

- personal documents of a minister or the minister’s staff
- documents of a party political nature, and
- documents held in the minister’s capacity as a local member of parliament not dealing with the minister’s portfolio responsibility.

I am advised that reasonable searches for documents have been undertaken by the Minister’s office and that the Minister does not hold any official documents of a Minister that fall within the scope of your request.

Accordingly, I have decided to refuse your request pursuant to subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act on the basis that I am advised that all reasonable steps have been taken to find documents falling within the scope of your request and those documents do not exist.

For completeness, I note that I am advised that the Minister has made a public speech and public comments relevant to the scope of your request, but this speech and comments were made in his capacity as a local member of Parliament and do not deal with his portfolio responsibility as Minister for Education. This speech and transcripts of the comments can be found on the Minister’s personal website using the links below:

<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/transcripts/doorstop-interview-parliament-house-canberra-monday-9-october-2023/>

<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/speeches/speech-hamas-israel-conflict/>

<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/transcripts/television-interview-with-natalie-barr-sunrise-friday-20-october-2023/>

<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/transcripts/television-interview-with-natalie-barr-sunrise->

friday-1-december-2023/

I have enclosed for your information copies of these documents.

I have also enclosed information about your rights of review under the FOI Act at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph

27 June 2024

## YOUR RIGHTS OF REVIEW

### Asking for a review of an FOI decision

Under section 54L of the FOI Act, if you believe the decision is incorrect, you can apply for a review of an FOI decision by the Australian Information Commissioner.

There are no fees for applying for a review.

You will have 60 days to apply in writing for a review by the Australian Information Commissioner.

You can lodge your application in one of the following ways:

Online:

[https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=ICR\\_10](https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=ICR_10)

Email: [foxxx@xxxx.xxx.au](mailto:foxxx@xxxx.xxx.au)

Post: Australian Information Commissioner  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Home (<https://jasonclare.com.au/>) » Doorstop Interview – Parliament House, Canberra – Monday 9 October 2023

# Doorstop Interview – Parliament House, Canberra – Monday 9 October 2023

📅 October 9, 2023



## E&OE TRANSCRIPT

### DOORSTOP

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

### MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2023

**SUBJECTS: *Voice Referendum; Hamas-Israel conflict; Safety on university campuses***

**JASON CLARE, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION:** Australia is the best country in the world. We all know that. And in five days, we get a chance to make Australia an even better and an even fairer place. We get a chance to recognise our history, and to help a group of Australians who are really doing it tough. And for my mind, that's a really Aussie thing to do. To help a group of Australians who are doing it tough.

Peter Dutton is not interested in that. Peter Dutton is just interested in politics and division. And if you want proof of that, then have a look at the front page of The West Australian today. He's now saying that after the Referendum is over, they're thinking about holding a Senate inquiry and hauling companies into this place just for disagreeing with him. Dragging people into this building because they donated to the Yes campaign. Because they disagree. There's the evidence that Peter Dutton has only ever been about one thing, and that's him and his own political advantage. About politics, and about division, and now about political payback. That's not what being a leader is all about. A big part about being a leader is about trying to help Australians that are doing it tough. That's what this Referendum is all about, and in five days' time Australia gets a chance to be part of that, to help build a better country and I so hope that Australians do.

**JOURNALIST:** What do you say to your situation in your electorate, members of the Arab Muslim and Arab Christian communities who feel that Federal Labor Government has failed to provide adequate support in terms of rhetoric for Palestinians who are fighting the, say, for their liberation?

**CLARE:** I would say that in Australia, we celebrate the end of war, not the start of it. All Australians should condemn the attack by Hamas on Israel. And all Australians should come together in wanting to see a protection of civilian lives, be it in Israel, or in Palestine.

**JOURNALIST:** Are you concerned about tensions boiling over in Western Sydney and south-western Sydney where we are seeing pro Palestine rallies?

**CLARE:** No, I'm not. Australians are good, honest, hardworking people. We see what happens on the other side of the world and it worries all Australians. What I'm more worried about are the scenes that we see on television at night, the front pages of newspapers today and what we'll see in the days to come, and that is more violence, more death. None of us want to see that.

**JOURNALIST:** Just moments ago, Peter Dutton at his press conference said that the Australian Government should not be urging restraint. What do you say to comments like that?

**CLARE:** I'll refer that to Penny Wong. She's the Foreign Minister and she's made it very, very clear that we condemn the attack on Israel. No one in Australia and no one around the world wants to see death and destruction. We've had enough of that.

**JOURNALIST:** Should Israel be exercising restraint in its attacks on Gaza?

**CLARE:** In the points that Penny's made, no one wants to see innocent civilians killed.

**JOURNALIST:** Would you support Australia providing support to Israel, including munitions?

**CLARE:** Let me refer that to Penny. That is in her area of responsibility.

**JOURNALIST:** On the Voice, Jason, the Prime Minister and other people were talking about in our last big campaign yesterday, you have to have more conversations with people. The polls are going the wrong way, are you concerned people simply aren't listening to the conversations that have been had?

**CLARE:** People are just starting to tune in. Not everybody, lots of people have voted last week, lots more people will vote this week. But the vast majority of Aussies will vote this weekend. And for a lot of Australians, I'm pretty sure they still haven't made up their mind. You've touched on the polls in the paper today, there's a lot of Australians who are still not sure. Australia has got five days to make up our mind on this. As people count down to Saturday, they will give this serious thought. But this is tough. Winning a referendum is tough. Only one in five referenda in our history has got up. A Labor Government has only been successful in getting a referendum up once. In 1946. That gives you an idea just how hard this is. This is the political equivalent of climbing Mount Everest, but it's worth it. It's worth it if what we do here helps to change the lives of people doing it tough.

**JOURNALIST:** Well, obviously the results still to be had and you're hoping to win. But you talked about it being a mountain to climb and all these sort of things like surely there is thought being put to in the Government, in the ranks, in your portfolio, maybe about what

happens on October 15 if it is a no vote, what does the country look like?

**CLARE:** I'm focused on Saturday, not Sunday. There are good things and real things that we can do as a Government to help improve the lives of Indigenous Australians. And I'm doing a lot of that now, the legislation in the Parliament, in the area of higher education, we think and hope will double the number of Indigenous people in university within the decade.

The investments we hope to make in school education next year with the next National School Reform Agreement will look to change the situation that exists today where Indigenous kids are three times more like fall behind and three times to stay behind as well.

The work we need to do in early education as well will look at getting more Indigenous kids into preschool.

But we have to do more than that. We have to do more than just change what we're doing, we have to change the way we do things. Because if we change the way we do things, and that's what the Voice is about, then you can make a bigger difference.

And with school education, making a difference isn't just what happens in the classroom, it's what happens outside the classroom. It's whether a child goes to school hungry or not, whether they're healthy or not, whether they sleep in a room with 10 other kids or whether they've got their own bedroom or not, whether mum and dad have a job or not. All of those things have an impact on how a child goes at school, or whether they turn up at all. The Voice is about bringing advice together on all those things, on health and housing and employment, as well as education. That's how you make a real difference in the lives of children today and children tomorrow.

**JOURNALIST:** In your portfolio, you hosted Education Ministers last week. You spoke about an independent safety body. Just wondering what that would look like. You talked about legislation that calls for a taskforce to keep university students safer, to provide independent oversight, the department doesn't trust the sector to do it. Would that be a priority? Would that inform the establishment? Would you put the taskforce up first, before the new student body and provide independent oversight to universities before?

**CLARE:** We've got a Working Group now. It's made up of officials from every State and Territory. They're being informed by organisations like STOP, End Rape on Campus and Fair Agenda, who represent students. They're contemplating what sort of things are necessary to make sure that students are safer at university, and when they're not, that universities are held accountable for that.

There's been the idea proposed in the past about a taskforce. When I think taskforce, I think about something that is temporary, rather than permanent. One of the ideas being considered here is something permanent and something that is independent of Government, independent of this place, and independent of the universities. An ombudsman. But not just the current ombudsman, but a standalone, independent student ombudsman that would be responsible for investigating complaints and holding universities to account when something's gone wrong. There's a bit of work to do before a proposal like that comes before me and other Education Ministers formally. But it was floated as an idea at the Education Ministers meeting last week on Thursday, and we've agreed that Education Ministers will meet again before the end of November to consider an action plan that may include the establishment of a Student Ombudsman.

**JOURNALIST:** Yeah. Are you looking to urgently respond to that committee inquiry and the recommendations?

**CLARE:** Yes. I mentioned this, I was asked by PK on Friday morning about this. I said that's why we're going to hold a special meeting of Education Ministers in November. Once the plan is ready for us to consider, we'll consider it, and implement it as quick as possible. Now, you mentioned legislation. We need advice on legislation, and that'll help determine how quickly we implement the recommendations.

**JOURNALIST:** So you're hoping there could be agreement on such a framework or plan at the next meeting? Or is that simply discussion?

**CLARE:** Yes, that's what I'm hoping for.

**JOURNALIST:** Back to Israel and Palestine. Only days ago, the Prime Minister was standing inside the Lakemba mosque urging the Muslim community to back the Voice to Parliament. The LMA has released a statement criticising the Government's comments about Israel and Palestine and the Australian Government's unwavering support for Israel a state that's been accused of committing apartheid? Have you spoken to members of your community, those with whom you're meeting on Friday?

**CLARE:** I haven't spoken to members of the community this morning. But I do know that there is strong support within the Islamic community in Australia for the Voice to Parliament. You see it in the statements that have been issued by the Islamic community. And the bond between the Islamic community and Indigenous Australians goes back longer than the Constitution goes back, before Captain Cook ever arrived at Botany Bay. The trading that happened between Makassans in Indonesia, and Indigenous Australians in East Arnhem Land is proof of that. The Islamic words that are part of the Indigenous language in East Arnhem Land are proof of that. And when I talk to leaders in the Muslim community, in my local area, they talk about that bond, that friendship, that connection between the Islamic community and the Indigenous community. They also talk about knowing what it's like to be discriminated against, about being the underdog, about feeling left behind, and about doing it tough. And that's why I'm very grateful that my community, in particular the Islamic community, in Western Sydney, is so forthright in their support for this.

**JOURNALIST:** Do you think it's appropriate for the Australian Parliament to be lit in the colours of the Israeli flag, and they shouldn't because they've been accused by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch of committing apartheid?

**CLARE:** Ultimately, that's a matter for the presiding officers.

ENDS

**Blaxland (<https://jasonclare.com.au/blaxland/>)**

**Media centre**  
**(<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/>)**

Portfolio (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/portfolio-releases-media-releases/>)  
Local (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/local-releases-media-releases/>)

**Electorate office**

Suite 7, Level 1  
600 Chapel Road  
Bankstown, NSW, 2200



Articles(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/articles/>)  
Transcripts(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/transcripts/>)  
Speeches(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/speeches/>)

### Parliament Office

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### Postal Address

PO Box 153  
Bankstown, NSW, 1885

Disclaimer(<https://jasonclare.com.au/disclaimers/>)  
Copyright(<https://jasonclare.com.au/copyright/>)  
Accessibility policy(<https://jasonclare.com.au/accessibility-policy/>)

(htt (htt (htt  
ps:/ ps:/ ps:/  
/w /w /w  
ww ww ww  
.ins /twi .fac .lin  
tag tter ebo ked  
@ra .co ok. in.c  
m.c m/J f co om  
om aso m/J /in/j  
/ias nCl aso aso  
onc are nCl nCl  
lare MP are are  
mp ) ) )

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices stand and we pay our respects to Elders Past, present and emerging. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Authorised by Jason Clare MP, Australian Labor Party.  
Suite 7, Level 1, 400 Chapel Road  
Bankstown, NSW, 2200

Home (<https://jasonclare.com.au/>) » SPEECH: Hamas-Israel Conflict

# SPEECH: Hamas-Israel Conflict

📅 October 18, 2023



Mr CLARE (Blaxland—Minister for Education) (18:38): Last week, a Jewish friend of mine told me that he felt afraid to send his children to school here in Australia. The same day, a Muslim friend of mine told me that he was afraid his family in Gaza would not be alive tomorrow. We're a long way away from what's happening on the other side of the world, but it's having an impact here. The fear, the angst and the anger are palpable.

It's hard to believe that people are capable of the sort of evil that we've seen on display on our television screens: the murder of teenagers going to a festival, the murder of grandmothers, the murder of babies. It's like a horror movie in real life, and we stand here together in condemnation of it. I think most of us are still reeling at the sickening barbarity of it, the indiscriminate evil of it. But as we saw those images we also knew what would come next—more violence, more death of innocent people. History tells us that, and we're bearing witness to it again today with the destruction of the al-Ahli Arab Hospital and the death of hundreds of more innocent people. All of this just leads to more fear, more dread, more anger, more hate, there and here.

We can and we should condemn any indiscriminate attack and the targeting of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, and we do. Australia joins with others in calling for international law to always be upheld. We are so lucky to live here in the best country in the world. I say often to my community that one of the reasons we are the best country in the world is that we are made up of people from all around the world—people from all different backgrounds, all different religions, all different cultures. We're respectful of each other. We live next to each other, we are neighbours to each other, and we live in peace. In that sense, we are a symbol, we are a message to the rest of the world. But that is being tested at the moment too, and it will be tested even more in the days and weeks ahead if, as we suspect, more people die. We can't control what is happening on the other side of the world, but we can make sure that what is happening there does not pull us apart here. What we do next matters. We have a responsibility, all of us as community leaders, to try to turn the temperature down.

We have an obligation to understand the fears of my two friends. They want us to know that every innocent life should be protected, Israeli and Palestinian. They want us to know that Hamas and Palestine are not the same thing. They want to be protected, and they want to feel safe here at home. In the lifetime of my grandparents, we have all seen the evil that antisemitism can reap, and in just the last few years in New Zealand we have seen what the poison of Islamophobia can produce. In the dark corners of our country, that scourge exists here too, and, where we see it, we must condemn it. But we can't just condemn it and hope that it will go away. We have to work together to eliminate it. That's our job as community leaders, and that's what my two friends ask of us. Just like all of us, they dream of two countries, a two-state solution, no blockades and no terror, just two peoples living peacefully next door to one another.

That's something we take for granted, like dropping off our kids at school and knowing they are going to come home safe, or teenagers going to a musical festival and having the time of their lives, or going to bed at night in your apartment and knowing that it won't be rubble in the morning. The terrible truth, though, is that the horror of the last week or so means that that life for Israelis and Palestinians is now further away than ever. This moment is too important for politics or the sometimes petty squabbles of this place. This moment and this motion call on us—all of us—to come together: in grief for all those innocent lives already lost; in hope, however improbable, that there will be no more; and in belief, however hopeless things seem right now, that there is still a better world that lies ahead for my two friends.

## **Blaxland (<https://jasonclare.com.au/blaxland/>)**

### **Media centre**

**(<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/>)**

Portfolio (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/portfolio-releases-media-releases/>)

Local (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/local-releases-media-releases/>)

Articles (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/articles/>)

Transcripts (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/transcripts/>)

Speeches (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/speeches/>)

### **Electorate office**

Suite 7, Level 1

600 Chapel Road

Bankstown, NSW, 2200

### **Parliament Office**

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

### **Postal Address**

PO Box 153

Bankstown, NSW, 1885

Disclaimer(<https://jasonclare.com.au/disclaimers/>)

Copyright(<https://jasonclare.com.au/copyright/>)

Accessibility policy(<https://jasonclare.com.au/accessibility-policy/>)

(htt (htt (htt  
ps:/ ps:/ ps:/  
/w /w /w  
ww /twi ww ww  
.ins tter .fac .lin  
tag tter ebo ked  
ra .co ok. in.c  
m.c aso m/J /in/j  
/ias nCl aso aso  
onc are nCl ncl  
fare MP are are  
Tops Strait Islands  
) /) /)

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices stand and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Authorised by Jason Clare MP, Australian Labor Party.  
Suite 7, Level 1, 400 Chapel Road  
Bankstown, NSW, 2200

Home (<https://jasonclare.com.au/>) » Television Interview with Natalie Barr – Sunrise – Friday 20 October 2023

# Television Interview with Natalie Barr – Sunrise – Friday 20 October 2023

📅 October 20, 2023



**E&OE TRANSCRIPT**  
**TELEVISION INTERVIEW**  
**SUNRISE**  
**FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2023**

***SUBJECTS: Travel warning to Lebanon; Israel-Hamas conflict***

**NATALIE BARR:** Well, travel advice for Lebanon has been dramatically upgraded to “Do Not Travel”. The government’s Smart Traveller Service is warning Australians to avoid visiting the country due to the volatile security situation brought on by the neighbouring Israel-Hamas war and the risk of it deteriorating further. Authorities are particularly worried about intensifying civil unrest and increasing attacks on Israel’s northern border by the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Let’s bring in Education Minister Jason Clare and Deputy Opposition Leader Sussan Ley. Good morning to both of you.

Jason, there are more than 90,000 Lebanese born people in Australia, particularly in western Sydney and northern Melbourne. We just talked to the Lebanese Muslim Association. They told us the first they heard of this travel warning was when Channel Seven called them yesterday. Should we be doing a bit better than that? I know it’s a difficult situation.

**JASON CLARE, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION:** I thank you for broadcasting this message as well, Nat. It’s important to get this message out to all Australians as quickly as possible. Obviously, what’s happening in the Middle East is changing minute by minute and hour by hour. The short message here is, if you’re thinking of travelling to Lebanon, don’t. And if you’re an Australian in Lebanon now, then make arrangements to get the first available commercial flight home. Because we don’t know what’s going to happen tomorrow or the next day. But Lebanon shares a border with Israel and as this conflict continues, and the risk of things

getting worse, not better, that Australians thinking about travelling to Lebanon shouldn't, and Australians in Lebanon should, if they want to come home, make arrangements as soon as possible.

**BARR:** Sussan, this affects a lot of Australians, at least 15,000 Lebanese people living in Lebanon, tourists, people who have family in Australia. What are you thinking about the government's handling of this situation?

**SUSSAN LEY:** Yes, it does affect so many of our Lebanese Australians, and I know they'll be really worried right now, Nat. And as those family reunion scenes showed, this is always a very human issue, but travellers must check the website Smart Traveller, listen to the warnings and heed them. And I know the US has issued similar warnings to its citizens in that part of the world. So, obviously we'll stay close to the government on this and we appreciate their briefings and I'm sure we'll hear more of them.

**BARR:** Okay, moving on, Labor Ministers Ed Husic and Anne Aly have broken ranks to slam Australia's response to the Israel-Hamas conflict, saying we have failed to properly consider the plight of the Palestinians. The pair say Israel is subjecting civilians in Gaza to collective punishment, accusing the Jewish state of committing war crimes. Sussan, you have said this raises serious questions about our government's official stance on the conflict. What should the PM do here?

**LEY:** There's a real problem here, Nat, and it goes to the cabinet of this government and a key cabinet minister who is speaking against the government position. I think we should ask Jason on this program whether he thinks that Israel is collectively punishing Hamas and whether he also thinks, as his cabinet colleague does, that that is or should be the official government position. Because you don't get to freelance on government policy, on foreign policy, when you're a cabinet minister. It's a position that you share with your colleagues and with the government.

Now, the Prime Minister's got a real problem here. He's going to Washington. He may well be asked who's running foreign policy in Australia? Is it Penny Wong? Is it Ed Husic? What's actually going on? Because this is a minister who has stepped right out of line and he's got a chance today to correct those remarks. Otherwise, I think he should seriously consider his position.

**BARR:** Jason, what's your response? The view here is that the 2.3 million Palestinians are being collectively blamed for the crimes of terrorists here. They are in the middle and they are innocent.

**CLARE:** Nat, everyone condemns the actions of Hamas, the slaughter of innocent people in Israel which has caused this war. I think it's important to point out that Hamas is not Palestine. Hamas is a terrorist political organisation. There are millions of Palestinians in Gaza now and there's a real risk that they'll get caught in the crossfire here. The point to make here is that Israel, like any country, like Australia, has got to comply with international law and that means doing everything that they can to make sure that innocent people aren't killed here.

I've spent pretty much all of this week talking to Jewish Australians and Muslim Australians. We're three Anglo Australians. I've got to tell you, this war for Jewish Australians and Muslim Australians is different. Those dead bodies on both sides of the border, they have names. And a lot of Australians of Jewish background and Muslim background know those names. That's why they're afraid. That's why they're frightened. That's why they're asking for a bit of

compassion here. And what's happening on the other side of the world has an impact here in Australia. We've got to make sure that we keep our country together. It's why we've announced over the last 48 hours more than \$100 million to invest in keeping our schools safe, our synagogues safe, our mosques safe, as well as investing in the mental health, particularly of our kids. But our whole community here, we can't let what's happening on the other side of the world tear us apart here in Australia.

**LEY:** And much of that I agree with, Jason, especially around humanitarian assistance and not wanting to see lives lost. But you haven't answered the question. Do you agree with Ed Husic about the term collective punishment being used?

**CLARE:** Susan, this is too important to play politics with...

**LEY:** It's not political...

**CLARE:** If I wanted to play politics, I could pull out the statements...

**LEY:** Your Prime Minister is making the right statements...

**CLARE:** I didn't interrupt you.

**LEY:** And your Premier is making the right statements...

**CLARE:** Susan, if I wanted to, I could pull out the statements that you made when you were the chair of the Friends of Palestine that are in stark contrast with Peter Dutton. I'm not going to do that on live TV because I don't think it is in the national interest. We've got to work together here as Labor and Liberal to keep the country together at this moment.

**LEY:** Your Prime Minister is leading and your Premier is leading, but not your cabinet minister.

**BARR:** I think we've both had our say. Thank you very much. See you next week.

*ENDS*

**Blaxland (<https://jasonclare.com.au/blaxland/>)**

### Media centre

**(<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/>)**

Portfolio(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/portfolio-releases>)

Local (<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/local-releases>)

Articles(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/articles/>)

Transcripts(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/transcripts/>)

Speeches(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/speeches/>)

### Electorate office

Suite 7, Level 1  
400 Chapel Road  
Bankstown, NSW, 2200

### Parliament Office

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### Postal Address

PO Box 153  
Bankstown, NSW, 1885

Disclaimer(<https://jasonclare.com.au/disclaimers/>)  
Copyright(<https://jasonclare.com.au/copyright/>)  
Accessibility policy(<https://jasonclare.com.au/accessibility-policy/>)

(htt (htt (htt  
ps:/ ps:/ ps:/  
/w (/htt /w /w  
ww ps:/ ww ww  
.ins /twi .fac .lin  
tag tter ebo ked  
.co .co .in.c  
@ra m/J f in  
m.c aso co om  
om nCl m/J /in/j  
/ias are aso aso  
onc MP nCl nCl  
lare MP are are  
mp ) MP mp  
) /) /)

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices stand and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Authorised by Jason Clare MP, Australian Labor Party.  
Suite 7, Level 1, 400 Chapel Road  
Bankstown, NSW, 2200



Home (<https://jasonclare.com.au/>) » Television Interview with Natalie Barr – Sunrise – Friday 1 December 2023

# Television Interview with Natalie Barr – Sunrise – Friday 1 December 2023

📅 December 1, 2023



**E&OE TRANSCRIPT  
TELEVISION INTERVIEW  
SUNRISE CHANNEL 7  
FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2023**

**SUBJECTS: Israel-Hamas conflict; Operation Sovereign Borders**

**NATALIE BARR:** It's been revealed there is growing pressure on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to be more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. There are reports Education Minister Jason Clare is a key player in that push, telling a group of Arab Australians he is advocating for them in Cabinet.

Mr Clare's electorate of Blaxland has one of the largest populations of Muslim Australians in the country.

And Jason Clare joins us now along with Deputy Opposition Leader Sussan Ley. Good morning to both of you.

**JASON CLARE, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION:** Good morning.

**SUSSAN LEY:** Morning.

**BARR:** Jason, are you pushing for the Prime Minister to be more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause?

**CLARE:** There's no difference between my position and the Prime Minister's. I think any right minded Australian was appalled and condemned that terrorist attack that happened on October the 7th and we are still waiting for all of those hostages to be returned.

But as I've said on the show a couple of times now, Hamas is not Palestine. There are a lot of innocent people that are caught in the crossfire. And all of those dead bodies that we see on our TV every night, if you're a Jewish Australian or if you're a Palestinian Australian, that's different, because those people often are their family and that's why they're angry, that's why they're scared, that's why they're asking for a bit of compassion from us.

A good friend of mine, a Jewish friend of mine who was in Israel on October 7, was in Tel Aviv when the terrorist attack happened, and was caught in a bunker to keep safe. When she got back to Australia the first thing she did was go and see her Muslim friends and wrap her arms around them. We need a little bit more of that in Australia at the moment rather than these awful protests.

We can't change what's happening on the other side of the world, but we've got to keep this country together, and that means all of us turning the temperature down a little bit and working – Jewish Australians, Muslim Australians, Christian Australians, all of us – to keep this country together.

**BARR:** Yeah, I think you're right, it is a very, very difficult situation and it's been very heated. But Jason, I'm just checking whether you have been pushing the Prime Minister to be more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause?

**CLARE:** All of us, and I'm sure that this is true for Sussan as well.

**BARR:** And, not all of us, I'm talking just about you, and you have done that, that's just the question.

**CLARE:** But what I'm saying...sorry to interrupt, I apologise. I think all of us want a just and enduring peace in the Middle East.

**BARR:** Of course.

**CLARE:** And that involves a two-state solution where Jews and Palestinians are both safe behind secure borders in two countries. Now we've been hoping and praying for that to happen for years, for decades. I know Sussan has been a key part of that campaign as well. I fear that the terrorist attack on October 7 just pushed that back into the never never. But a just and enduring peace, where people are safe and are not subject to the sort of terrorist attacks that we saw on October 7, or the check points and all the problems that besets that part of the world now, is what we all want. And I hope that's what comes out of this.

**BARR:** Yep. Sussan, what do you think about this? Have you heard that this is the case, that the Government has not been strong enough on one side?

**LEY:** Nat, excuse my croaky voice, it's been a very big week in Canberra. Look, the humanity in this situation is the most important thing and I have despaired at the lack of humanity from Hamas to the Palestinian people of Gaza. And we have to remember that using those people as human shields in this conflict has triggered some pretty awful results.

And I agree with Jason about bringing the domestic issues to the fore here, because right here in Sydney where I am, where Jason is, we have to remember that there are Jewish Australians who are fearful to show the symbols of their faith, to get on their school buses, to worship at their synagogues. And this is a lack of social cohesion that I have never seen in the finest multicultural country in the world.

So I'm calling on everybody to I agree Jason wrap our arms around our fellow Australians and remember that what we have in this country is incredibly special.

**CLARE:** 100 per cent.

**LEY:** And we can't afford to lose it.

**CLARE:** 100 per cent.

**BARR:** You're right, it's unique. Look, just on something else that is being raised this morning. There are fresh concerns that Australia could see an influx of asylum seekers following that recent High Court ruling that let out the detainees, and that smugglers, people smugglers are now telling people overseas, particularly in Indonesia, that it is easy to live in Australia, that you can be let free. Jason, are you concerned about this?

**CLARE:** Well we know people smugglers will tell lies. I think there's plenty of evidence of that over the years. But the truth is, and I made this point on the show this time last week, that if you try to travel to Australia by boat then you'll be turned back, or you'll be sent to a third country like Nauru or you'll be sent back to your country of origin. They're the facts and they can spread all the lies they want but it's important for us to get out the truth.

**BARR:** And we know that's the truth but are you concerned that that's the vibe, that's what's being told in Indonesia now? Like we did ask you last week that that's the fear. Are you hearing that?

**CLARE:** Yeah, but I'm not the Minister for Home Affairs so I don't get those security briefings. But it doesn't surprise me that people smugglers, criminals, are going to try and lie to make money.

But it's important that we use the opportunity on programs like Sunrise, that have got so many people listening and watching, to tell the truth, which is that if you try and get on a rickety boat and come to Australia, you'll get turned back, or you'll get sent to a country like Nauru or you'll get sent back to your country of origin. And important to point out here, that was the policy under the former government, it's the policy under us.

**BARR:** Yep, okay. Sussan, obviously that is a big concern, isn't it?

**LEY:** Jason, you're not the Minister for Home Affairs. I think you'd actually be a much better Minister for Home Affairs than we have. Unfortunately the people smugglers are tuning into the chaos in the Australian Parliament where we have Ministers for Immigration and Home Affairs who seem completely unable to bring forward the strong legislation that is needed for the Australian Government to make a really definitive statement about people smuggling, about what happens to you if you come to Australia.

I mean we've just seen this complete chaos with do we have preventative detention? First the Minister says we don't need it, then says we won't leave Parliament until we legislate it and so on. So we are watching this. I was there in those Rudd Government years when the boats came. We need to watch this really closely.

**BARR:** Okay. And then we've got the Opposition voting on, you know, part of the legislation yesterday, so definitely two sides on this. Thank you very much, we'll see you next week.

**CLARE:** Thank you.

**ENDS**

**Blaxland (<https://jasonclare.com.au/blaxland/>)**

**Media centre  
(<https://jasonclare.com.au/media/>)**

Portfolio(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/portfolio-releases>)

Local releases(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/local-releases>)

Articles(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/articles>)

Transcripts(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/transcripts>)

Speeches(<https://jasonclare.com.au/category/media/speeches>)

**Electorate office**

Suite 7, Level 1  
400 Chapel Road  
Bankstown, NSW, 2200

**Parliament Office**

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Postal Address**

PO Box 153  
Bankstown, NSW, 1885

Disclaimer(<https://jasonclare.com.au/disclaimers/>)

Copyright(<https://jasonclare.com.au/copyright/>)

Accessibility policy(<https://jasonclare.com.au/accessibility-policy/>)

(htt (htt (htt  
ps./ ps./ ps./  
/w /w /w  
ww ww ww  
.ins /twi .fac .lin  
taq tter ebo ked

@ra...co  
 m.c...m/J f...ok. in.c  
 om...aso m/J /in/j  
 was...nCl...aso...aso  
 onc...are...nCl...ncl  
 fare...MP...are...are  
 mp...MP...mp...mp  
 ).../).../

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices stand and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Authorised by Jason Clare MP, Australian Labor Party.  
 Suite 7, Level 1, 400 Chapel Road  
 Bankstown, NSW, 2200