# Policy costing request—during the caretaker period for a general election

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of policy:** | Reversing Harsh & Harmful Abbott and Turnbull Budget Measures |
| Person requesting costing: | Senator Di Natale |
| Parliamentary party:  | Australian Greens |
| Date of request to cost the policy: | 1 July 2016 |
| *Note: This policy costing request and the response to this request will be made publicly available.* |
| Has a costing of this policy been requested under Section 29 of the Charter of Budget Honesty (ie from the Treasury or the Department of Finance)? | No |
| Details of the public release of this policy (Date, by whom and a reference to that release): | Multiplicity of measures opposed in the Senate. |
| **Description of policy** |
| Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents): | To oppose budget measures from the 44th Parliament. See appendix below. |
| What is the purpose or intention of the policy? | To ensure a fair and equal Australian society |
| **What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:** |
| Is the policy part of a package?If yes, list the components and interactions with proposed or existing policies. | No |
| Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount? If a capped amount, are the costs of administering the policy to be included within the capped amount or additional to the capped amount? | N/A |
| Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in funding or delivering the policy?If yes, is the Australian Government contribution capped, with additional costs to be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged? | No |
| Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses?If yes, please provide details. | N/A |
| Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure? | Yes |
| If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program? | Yes |
| Will the funding/program cost require indexation?If yes, list factors to be used. | N/A |
| **Expected impacts of the proposal** |
| If applicable, what are the estimated costs each year? If available, please provide details in the table below. Are these provided on an underlying cash balance or fiscal balance basis? |
| **Estimated financial implications (outturn prices)(a)** |
|  | 2016–17 | 2017–18 | 2018–19 | 2019–20 |
| Underlying cash balance ($m) |  |  |  |  |
| Fiscal balance ($m) | -120 | -4597 | -4677 | -5053 |
| 1. A positive number for the fiscal balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in accrual terms. A positive number in the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.
 |
| What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)? | $16.1 billion of collective budget measures are to be reversed from the government’s past budgets.The claimed savings are to be reversed on 1 July 2017 and spread evenly across the three estimates years. |
| Has the policy been costed by a third party?If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions? | No |
| What is the expected community impact of the policy?How many people will be affected by the policy?What is the likely take up?What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions? | Remove the government’s budget repair strategy off the back of vulnerable people who rely on government support. |
| **Administration of policy:** |
| Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non‑government organisation, etc)? | Australian Government |
| Please specify whether any special administrative arrangements are proposed for the policy and whether these are expected to involve additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies). | N/A |
| Intended date of implementation: | 1 July 2017 |
| Intended duration of policy: | Various |
| Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation? | No |
| List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS catalogue number 3201.0). |  |
| Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered? | No |
| **NOTE:***Please note that:**The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.**The PBO is not bound to accept the assumptions provided by the requestor. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requestor in advance of the costing being completed.* |

**Appendix: List of Government Budget Measures to be opposed**

|  |
| --- |
| **Improved Animal Welfare Programme**  |
| **Australian Animal Welfare Strategy — cessation** |
| **ABC and SBS - efficiency savings (2014-15 Budget)** |
| **Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Special Broadcasting Service - additional efficiency savings (2014-15 MYEFO)** |
| **Arts and Cultural Programmes — efficiencies** |
| **Communications and the Arts Portfolio — efficiencies**  |
| **Cuts to Screen Australia** |
| **Efficiency Dividend - a further temporary increase of 0.25%** |
| **Restore Department of Social Services job cuts2** |
| **Restore Department of the Environment job cuts2,3** |
| **Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership - reduced funding** |
| **Bureau of Meteorology — improved efficiency**  |
| **Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations — cessation** |
| **Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Programme — reduced funding (Budget 2014-15)** |
| **Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Programme — reduced funding (Budget 2015-16)** |
| **Diplomatic presence in Africa (Senegal embassy)** |
| **PBS increase in co-payments and safety net thresholds4** |
| **MBS indexation of some Medicare Benefits Schedule fees and the Medicare Levy Surcharge and Private Health Insurance Rebate thresholds5** |
| **National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services — cessation**  |
| **National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health — cessation**  |
| **Smaller Government — Australian National Preventive Health Agency — abolish**  |
| **Medicare Benefits Schedule — changes to diagnostic imaging and pathology services bulk-billing incentives** |
| **Recommit funding left over in Clean Technology Investment Program6** |
| **Local Government Financial Assistance Grants — pause indexation for three years** |
| **Aged Care Payroll Tax Supplement - cessation** |
| **Apply the One-Week Ordinary Waiting Period (Budget 2014-15 and Budget 15-16 Measures)4,7** |
| **Growing jobs and small business - youth employment strategy - revised waiting period for youth income support4,7** |
| **Maintain eligibility thresholds for Australian Government payments for three years4,7** |
| **Discretionary Grant Programme Reform** |
| **Cessation of social security benefits for certain people confined in a psychiatric institution4** |
| **Pensioner Education Supplement – cessation4** |
| **Employment Services – Changes to Service Fees and Cessation of Personal Contact Interviews8,9** |
| **Australian Working Life Residence — tightening proportionality requirements4** |
| **Reprioritising the Aged Care Workforce Supplement (extent of savings)10** |
| **Applying a General Interest Charge to the Debts of Ex‑recipients of Social Security and Family Assistance Payments** |
| **Job Seeker Services — streamlining arrangements** |
| **Aged Care Provider Funding — revision to the Aged Care Funding Instrument Complex Health Care Domain11** |
| **Streamlining Health and Aged Care Workforce Programme funding** |
| **Indigenous Advancement Strategy – indexation pause** |
| **Remote School Attendance Strategy - continuation12** |
| **Disability Support Pension — compulsory participation requirements for recipients aged under 35 years13** |
| **Disability Support Pension — review recipients aged under 35 years14** |
| **Disability Support Pension — reduced portability15** |
| **Disability Support Pension — revised assessment process9,16** |
| **National Homelessness Research Strategy — reduced funding**  |
| **A New Remote Indigenous Housing Strategy17** |
| **Abolish the Seafarer Tax Offset** |
| **Reversal of Banking and Life Insurance unclaimed provisions18** |
| **Insurance Reform Advisory Group19** |
| **Australian Animals Welfare Advisory Committee20** |
| **National Steering Committee on Corporate Wrongdoing21** |
| **Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee20** |
| **National Housing Supply Council** |
| **National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing22** |
| **Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness23** |
| **Major Cities Unit (Department of Infrastructure)20** |
| **National Urban Policy Unit (Department of Infrastructure)24** |
| **Restore funding to the Office of the Information Commissioner25** |
| **Health Flexible Funds - Pausing Indexation and achieving efficiencies (Budget 2014-15)** |
| **Health Flexible Funds - Pausing Indexation and achieving efficiencies (Budget 2016-17)** |
| **Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement26** |
| **Establishment of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)27** |
| **Australian Securities and Investments Commission Registry Further Market Testing28** |
| **National Radioactive Waste Management Project — community benefits package28** |
| **Higher Education Participation Program — efficiencies** |
| **Healthier Medicare - trial of health care homes28** |
| **Public Sector Transformation and the Efficiency Dividend** |
| **Cashless debit card — third trial site29** |
| **Compulsory Rent Deduction Scheme — establishment29** |
| **Department of Human Services — administrative efficiencies** |
| **Backdating provisions for carers allowance (National Disability Insurance Scheme Savings Fund)9,30** |
| **Disability Support Pension recipients review (National Disability Insurance Scheme Savings Fund)9,30** |
| **Not proceeding with the NDIS advertising campaign (National Disability Insurance Scheme Savings Fund)31** |
| **National Resources Development Strategy — exploring for the future28** |
| **Military engagement against terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria28,32** |
| **Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio — efficiencies** |
| **Australian International Education — enabling growth and innovation28** |
| **Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education — efficiencies**  |
| **Personal Income Tax - Changes to tax residency rules for temporary working holiday makers (Backpacker Tax)** |
| **Aged care provider funding - further revision of funding instrument** |