



Policy costing

National Disability Insurance Scheme proposals, connect people and the internet, and inclusive education and employment

Party:

Australian Greens

Summary of proposal:

This proposal has nine components which will take effect from 1 July 2019.

- Component 1: Remove staffing caps on the National Disability Insurance Agency for the delivery of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Component 2: Provide \$400 million over four years to fast track the process of making public transport more accessible.
- Component 3: Provide \$1,005 million over four years to establish a new Accessible Infrastructure Fund (\$1 billion over four years) and a new Accessible Nature Fund (\$5 million over four years) available to state and local governments to retrofit existing public places and infrastructure to accessibility standards, and increase access to nature and tourism activities for people with disabilities.
- Component 4: Provide funding and regulatory requirements for advance captioning and audio description (\$25 million), relay and translation services (return funding levels to \$32 million per year), and access to Auslan (\$1 million per year).
- Component 5: Provide \$1.49 million over two years, followed by ongoing annual funding of \$2 million indexed by the consumer price index, to establish a National Disability Telecommunications Service, a national resource for communications product and services information, training, and support.
- Component 6: Provide funding for inclusive education training and upskilling for principals, teachers and university lecturers with the following elements.
 - Element 1: provide funding for a one-semester unit covering inclusive education in all tertiary teacher training.
 - Element 2: provide \$400 million over four years to train existing primary teachers, secondary teachers and principals.
- Component 7: Set a 15 per cent target for full employment representation of employees with a disability in the Australian Public Service by 2030, to ensure Australia meets its international human rights obligations.
- Component 8: Increase Commonwealth funding for disability advocacy bodies by \$15 million over four years.
- Component 9: Establish a safe, dedicated online platform for the promotion of discussion, debate, and cultural development within the disability community.

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$2,055.6 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This impact reflects an increase in administered expenses of \$2,045.6 million and departmental expenses of \$10.0 million.

This proposal would have an ongoing impact beyond the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications from 2019-20 to 2029-30 is at [Attachment A](#).

The financial implications for Component 1 are sensitive to the actual cost differential between employing an Australian Public Service (APS) employee and a contractor. There are also uncertainties associated with the timeframe and extent to which APS employees would be substituted for contractors under the proposal. The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has not made an assessment of how this proposal would affect the rollout and performance of the NDIS.

The financial implications for Element 1 of Component 6 are sensitive to the estimated number of future graduates of tertiary teaching courses, and the estimated cost of undertaking inclusive education training.

In relation to the components of this proposal where funding was proposed as specified capped amounts, the PBO has not assessed whether this amount would be sufficient to deliver the specified outcome.

Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	-524.0	-508.2	-511.0	-512.8	-2,055.6
Underlying cash balance	-524.0	-508.2	-511.0	-512.8	-2,055.6

(a) A positive number represents an increase in the relevant budget balance; a negative number represents a decrease.

(b) Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Key assumptions

The PBO has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

Component 1

- Any potential staffing shift from contractors to APS employees would occur as required over the course of the delivery of the NDIS.

Component 6

- All new teachers would undertake inclusive education training as part of their university studies.
- The \$400 million capped amount in Element 2 would be split evenly over the four-year period.
- The training would be able to be completed without back-filling teaching positions.

Methodology

The financial impacts of Components 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are the specified capped amounts.

The administered expense estimates for Element 1 of Component 6 were calculated by multiplying the estimated cost of undertaking a one-semester unit in inclusive education by the estimated number of tertiary teaching graduates.

- The estimated cost of undertaking a one-semester unit in inclusive education was based on the 2018 domestic tuition fees for an existing inclusive education course, indexed by the consumer price index.

The administered expenses for Element 2 of Component 6 reflect the specified funding amount.

For Component 7, setting a full employment target of 15 per cent by 2030 has been considered to have no financial implications, and any costs related to workplace adjustments for new employees will be met within existing departmental funding.

All estimates have been rounded to the nearest \$100,000.

Data sources

The Department of Finance provided indexation parameters as at the 2019-20 Budget.

Department of Education and Training, *Selected Higher Education Statistics* [Online]

Available at: <https://www.education.gov.au/selected-higher-education-statistics-2017-student-data> [Accessed 06.04.2019].

2018 Domestic Tuition Fees. [Online] Available at:

https://students.curtin.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/06/2018_tuitionfeeDom.pdf [Accessed 25.07.2018].

Australian Public Service Commission 2017, *APSC Statistical Bulletin 2016-17*, Australian Public Service Commission, Canberra.

Encyclopaedia of Disability 2006, Vol. 1, ed. Sage Publications, United Kingdom, pp. 585.

Australian Network on Disability, 2016. *Sharing and Monitoring Disability Information in your Workforce: A Guide for Employers*, Australian Disability Network, Sydney.

Job Accommodation Network, 2017. *Workplace accommodations: Low cost, high impact*, Job Accommodation Network, Office of Disability Employment Policy, Washington DC.

The Departmental of Social Services provided information on the Employment Assistance Fund.

Attachment A – National Disability Insurance Scheme proposals, connect people and the internet, and inclusive education and employment – financial implications

Table A1: National Disability Insurance Scheme proposals, connect people and the internet, and inclusive education and employment – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	Total to 2022–23	Total to 2029–30
Expenses													
<i>Administered</i>													
<i>Component 1: Remove staffing caps on the National Disability Insurance Agency</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 2: Increase funding to make public transport more accessible</i>	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-400.0	-400.0
<i>Component 3: Establish an Accessible Infrastructure Fund and Accessible Nature Fund</i>	-251.3	-251.3	-251.3	-251.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1,005.0	-1,005.0
<i>Component 4: Provide funding for advance captioning, audio description, relay and translation services, and access to Auslan</i>	-18.3	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-11.0	-51.3	-128.3
<i>Component 5: Establish a National Disability Telecommunications Service</i>	-0.7	-0.7	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.4	-5.5	-21.4
<i>Component 6: Provide funding for inclusive education training and upskilling for principals, primary, secondary and tertiary teachers</i>	-139.5	-141.0	-142.5	-144.2	-46.0	-47.8	-49.7	-51.7	-53.7	-55.8	-58.0	-567.3	-929.8
<i>Component 7: Improve the representation of employees with a disability in the Australian Public Service</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 8: Increase Commonwealth funding for disability advocacy bodies</i>	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-15.0	-15.0
<i>Component 9: Establish an online platform for the promotion of discussion, debate, and cultural development within the disability community</i>	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-1.5	-4.1
Total – administered	-514.0	-508.2	-511.0	-512.8	-59.5	-61.4	-63.3	-65.4	-67.4	-69.6	-71.8	-2,045.6	-2,503.6
<i>Departmental</i>													
<i>Component 1: Remove staffing caps on the National Disability Insurance Agency</i>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Component 2: Increase funding to make public transport more accessible</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 3: Establish an Accessible Infrastructure Fund and Accessible Nature Fund</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2028–29	2029–30	Total to 2022–23	Total to 2029–30
<i>Component 4: Provide funding for advance captioning, audio description, relay and translation services, and access to Auslan</i>	-10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-10.0	-10.0
<i>Component 5: Establish a National Disability Telecommunications Service</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 6: Provide funding for inclusive education training and upskilling for principals, primary, secondary and tertiary teachers</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 7: Improve the representation of employees with a disability in the Australian Public Service</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 8: Increase Commonwealth funding for disability advocacy bodies</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 9: Establish an online platform for the promotion of discussion, debate, and cultural development within the disability community</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total – departmental	-10.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-10.0	-10.0
Total	-524.0	-508.2	-511.0	-512.8	-59.5	-61.4	-63.3	-65.4	-67.4	-69.6	-71.8	-2,055.6	-2,513.6

- (a) 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 negative number for the fiscal balance indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses or net capital investment in accrual terms. A positive number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in receipts or a decrease in payments or net capital investment in cash terms. A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates a decrease in receipts or an increase in payments or net capital investment in cash terms.
- (b) Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
- .. Not zero but rounded to zero.
 - Indicates nil.