



Policy costing

Forced marriage policy	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
Summary of proposal: The proposal has three components. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Component 1: Remove the cooperation requirement (for victims of forced marriage to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in order to access the Support for Trafficked People Program for more than 90 days) from 1 July 2020.• Component 2: Establish a Commonwealth Forced Marriage Unit from 1 July 2020.• Component 3: Provide \$750,000 per year for four years from 1 July 2019 to support organisations that address the issue of forced marriage.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$13.5 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This reflects increases of \$10.6 million in administered expenses and \$2.9 million in departmental expenses.

A breakdown of the financial implications of this proposal over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period is included at [Attachment A](#). The proposal would be expected to have an ongoing impact beyond the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period.

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

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	-0.8	-3.9	-4.3	-4.7	-13.5
Underlying cash balance	-0.8	-3.9	-4.3	-4.7	-13.5

(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 Parliamentary Budget Office has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

Component 1: Remove the cooperation requirement

- Relaxing the cooperation requirement would result in new individuals accessing the Justice Support Stream. These individuals include:

- those who previously accessed the services but exited due to the cooperation requirement (approximately 60 per cent)
- those who would have otherwise been deterred by the cooperation requirement.

Individuals accessing the service would increase by 5 per cent as a result.

- The average cost per person is the same for existing and new individuals accessing the service. The average cost per person would grow in line with the consumer price index.
- Additional departmental expenses would not be material due to existing mechanisms available within the Department of Social Services to provide funds for the specified purpose.

Component 2: Establish a Commonwealth Forced Marriage Unit

- The Forced Marriage Unit would be housed within the premises currently occupied by the Department of Home Affairs. The unit would have five full-time-equivalent staff including one senior manager (Senior Executive Band 1 or Executive Level 2 employee).

Component 3: Grants for organisations that address the issue of forced marriage

- The full \$750,000 would be disbursed in each of the four years.

Methodology

- The costing of Component 1 was based on the number of individuals who accessed the Justice Support Stream services for the 2017 and 2018 calendar years, and the average cost per person for the 2017-18 financial year.
 - The data were used to estimate the program cost of removing the cooperation requirement.
 - The modelling takes into account the assumed behavioural responses outlined above.
- The cost of Component 2 was estimated as the average staffing costs multiplied by the number of full-time-equivalent staff at each staffing level. Staffing costs were grown by the appropriate wage cost index and include the impact of the efficiency dividend.
- Estimates have been rounded to the nearest \$0.1 million.

Data sources

The Department of Social Services provided information on the average unit cost of the Justice Support Stream for victims of forced marriage, the proportion of individuals who exit Justice Support Stream services, and the current population of individuals who access Justice Support Stream services.

The Department of Finance provided the wage cost index as at the 2019 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

Attachment A – Forced marriage policy – financial implications

Table A1: Forced marriage policy – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total to 2022-23
Expenses					
<i>Administered</i>					
<i>Component 1: Remove the cooperation requirement</i>	-	-2.1	-2.5	-2.9	-7.6
<i>Component 2: Establish a Commonwealth Forced Marriage Unit</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 3: Support for organisations that address the issue of forced marriage</i>	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-3.0
Total – administered	-0.8	-2.9	-3.3	-3.7	-10.6
<i>Departmental</i>					
<i>Component 1: Remove the cooperation requirement</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Component 2: Establish a Commonwealth Forced Marriage Unit</i>	-	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-2.9
<i>Component 3: Support for organisations that address the issue of forced marriage</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total – departmental	-	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-2.9
Total – expenses	-0.8	-3.9	-4.3	-4.7	-13.5

(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.

- Indicates nil.