



**POLICY COSTING REQUEST – DURING THE CARETAKER PERIOD FOR A
GENERAL ELECTION**

Name of policy:	Access to Justice
Person requesting costing:	Senator Milne
Date of request to cost the policy:	29 August 2013
<i>Note: This policy costing request and the response to this request will be made publicly available.</i>	
Has a costing of this policy been requested under Section 29 of the Charter of Budget Honesty (i.e. from the Treasury or the Department of Finance and Deregulation)?	No
Details of the public release of this policy (Date, by whom and a reference to that release)	15 August 2013, Senator Wright, http://penny-wright.greensmps.org.au/justice-safety-net .
Description of policy:	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	Enhancing access to justice by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing legal aid funding by 50 per cent; • Doubling funding to community legal centres; • Doubling funding for Indigenous family violence prevention legal services; • Increasing funding to Indigenous legal assistance services, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services by 50 per cent; and • Addressing the impact of rising court fees by returning court fees to 2010-11 levels, amending the application form for exemptions from court fees to remove ambiguity and introducing a fee exemption category for clients who are being represented on a pro bono basis.
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	To give all Australians access to some legal assistance, regardless of their income.
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:	
Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.	No.
Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?	Capped.
Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in	No

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<p>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?</p>				
<p>Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.</p>	No			
<p>Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?</p>	Yes, it is increasing funding for existing programmes..			
<p>If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?</p>	No			
<p>Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.</p>	Yes			
Expected impacts of the proposal				
<p>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?</p>				
Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) ^(a)				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	0	-276.6	-280.8	-285.2
Fiscal balance (\$m)	0	-276.6	-280.8	-285.2
<p>(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 positive number in the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.</p>				
<p>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)?</p>				
<p>Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?</p>	Yes, by the PBO on 2 July 2013 and 10 July 2013.			
<p>What is the expected community impact of the policy?</p>	People on lower incomes will have fairer access to justice.			

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<p>How many people will be affected by the policy?</p> <p>What is the likely take up?</p> <p>What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions?</p>	
Administration of policy:	
<p>Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?</p>	<p>Attorney-General's and other departments.</p>
<p>Should departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing?</p> <p>If no, will the Department be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy?</p> <p>If yes, please specify the key assumptions, including whether departmental costs are expected with respect to program management (by policy agencies) and additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies).</p>	<p>No, consistent with measures in the 2013-14 budget which increased funding for legal services.</p>
<p>Intended date of implementation.</p>	<p>1 July 2014</p>
<p>Intended duration of policy.</p>	<p>Three years</p>
<p>Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).</p>	
<p>Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>NOTE:</p> <p><i>Please note that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.</i> <i>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.</i> 	