



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

Name of policy:	Safer pathways for refugees
Person requesting costing:	Senator Milne
Date of request to cost the policy:	2 September 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)	<p>Safer Pathways, Senator Hanson-Young, 31 July 2013, http://greensmps.org.au/content/blog/another-way</p> <p>Refugee health panel, Senator Hanson-Young, 6 August 2013, http://greensmps.org.au/content/news-stories/refugee-independent-health-advisory-panel</p> <p>Caring for refugees in the community, 25 August 2013, Senator Hanson-Young, http://www.greens.org.au/end-mandatory-detention</p>
Description of policy:	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer Pathways for refugees: Increase Australia’s humanitarian program by 10 000 places a year, from 20 000 to 30 000; and Provide \$70m a year in grants the UNHCR for faster assessment, resettlement and better protections for refugees. See policy linked to above and previous PBO costing. 2. Establish a Refugee Health Advisory Panel. See policy linked to above. 3. Establish a 30 day time-limit on “onshore” immigration detention on Christmas Island and around the Australian mainland for initial health, security and identity checks to happen, before community release for duration of full refugee assessment. The majority of asylum seekers to be accommodated in the community while their asylum claim is processed. Close down remote detention centres, close down offshore processing camps - see policy linked to above and previous PBO costing.

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

What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	A more humane and safe refugee policy.
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. It is its own package
Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?	Second element is capped, other two are demand driven
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.	Offset of closing down detention centres is contained within the request.
Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?	Yes – expansion of mandatory detention of refugees on PNG and Nauru
If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?	Yes
Will the funding/program	No

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

cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.				
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) Safer pathways				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	-291.4	-680.2	-836.0	-1016.2
Fiscal balance (\$m)	-291.5	-680.4	-835.8	-1009.8
Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) ^(a) Caring for refugees in the community				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	690.6	799	795.9	885.4
Fiscal balance (\$m)	690.6	799	795.9	885.4
Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) ^(a) Health panel				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)		-1	-1	
Fiscal balance (\$m)		-1	-1	
(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.				
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)?	See previous PBO costings			
Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?	Yes , PBO , 30 July 2013 and 21 August 2013			
What is the expected	Safer, more humane refugee policy.			

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

<p>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?</p>	
Administration of policy:	
<p>Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?</p>	<p>Australian government</p>
<p>Should departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing? If no, will the Department be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy? 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>Yes – included in estimates costs above.</p>
<p>Intended date of implementation.</p>	<p>1 January 2014</p>
<p>Intended duration of policy.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>List major data sources</p>	

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utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).	
Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	
<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>	