



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

<b>Name of policy:</b>	Food literacy
Person requesting costing:	Senator Christine 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)	30 August 2013, Senator Christine Milne <a href="http://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Healthy-Eating-Skills-for-Life.pdf">http://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Healthy-Eating-Skills-for-Life.pdf</a>
<b>Description of policy:</b>	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	The Greens will invest \$46.5 million over 4 years from 1 July 2014 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that teaching about where our food and fibre comes from is embedded in the national curriculum for primary and secondary education;</li> <li>• Fund up to 800 new school kitchen garden projects, prioritising funding for schools in low socio-economic areas; and</li> <li>• Offer national grants for adult nutrition education programs, targeting staff training for welfare agencies that provide food relief, and their clients.</li> </ul>
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	There is significant research supporting the need to educate and instill in children healthy eating habits from an early age, and school garden and kitchen programs have been shown to be particularly effective.  Fresh food aid relief and adult food literacy are particularly acute needs because rates of Newstart and other allowances are leaving people unable to afford in particular fresh vegetables and fruit.  Data from relief agencies shows that there are an increasing number of working poor also seeking assistance to access fruit and vegetables. Rates of

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

	<p>food literacy are low in adults seeking food aid assistance and are key to helping people shift to affordable healthy eating habits.</p>
<p><b>What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:</b></p>	
<p>Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?</p>	<p>Capped amount.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes, in delivering the policy, particularly in relation to public schools, as they are owned by states &amp; territories and will need to agree to infrastructure such as kitchen/gardens.</p> <p>Australian Government contributions will remain capped.</p>
<p>Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.</p>	<p>Policies like this that help deliver preventative health measures can be expected to help deliver long-term savings to public health budgets, but cannot be directly costed from the specifics here.</p>

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

<p>Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?</p>	<p>Yes <a href="http://www.healthactive.gov.au/internet/healthactive/publishing.nsf/Content/kitchen-garden">http://www.healthactive.gov.au/internet/healthactive/publishing.nsf/Content/kitchen-garden</a>  There may be some existing funding from the federal government for food literacy training but it is hard to identify as part of broader grants.</p>																
<p>If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?</p>	<p>This proposal would be additional to existing measures; administrative costs should not increase dramatically from additional budget to spend.</p>																
<p>Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.</p>	<p>No</p>																
<p><b>Expected impacts of the proposal</b></p>																	
<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>																	
<p><b>Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) <sup>(a)</sup></b></p>																	
<p>\$50/week increase</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2013-14</th> <th>2014-15</th> <th>2015-16</th> <th>2016-17</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>-11.6</td> <td>-11.6</td> <td>-11.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Underlying cash balance (\$m)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiscal balance (\$m)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17		-11.6	-11.6	-11.6	Underlying cash balance (\$m)				Fiscal balance (\$m)			
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<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>See previous PBO costing 18 April 2013</p>																
<p>Has the policy been</p>	<p>Yes, by the PBO on 18 April 2013</p>																

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<p>costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?</p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>The community impact will be to significantly increase rates of child and adult food literacy, facilitating healthier lifestyles and supporting preventative health goals.</p>

**PBO POLICY COSTING REQUEST – DURING THE CARETAKER PERIOD FOR  
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<b>Administration of policy:</b>	
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?	DoHA
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).	Any costs to be absorbed.
Intended date of implementation.	1 July 2014
Intended duration of policy.	4 years
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No

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

List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).	<a href="http://www.healthyactive.gov.au/internet/healthyactive/publishing.nsf/Content/kitchen-garden">http://www.healthyactive.gov.au/internet/healthyactive/publishing.nsf/Content/kitchen-garden</a>  <a href="http://secondbite.org/Education%20Programs">http://secondbite.org/Education%20Programs</a>  <a href="http://www.healthyfoodforall.com.au/food-sensations/professional-development-days/">http://www.healthyfoodforall.com.au/food-sensations/professional-development-days/</a>
Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	No
<p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <p><i>Please note that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.</i></li><li><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></li></ul>	