



Parliament of Australia
Parliamentary Budget Office

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Parliamentary Budget Officer

Senator Richard Di Natale
Leader of the Australian Greens
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Di Natale

Please find attached a response to your costing request, *Access to Affordable Abortion* (letter of 30 June 2016).

The response to this request will be released on the PBO website (www.pbo.gov.au).

If you have any queries about this costing, please contact Colin Brown on (02) 6277 9530.

Yours sincerely

Phil Bowen

30 June 2016

Policy costing—during the caretaker period for the 2016 general election

Name of proposal:	Access to Affordable Abortion
Summary of proposal:	<p>The proposal has three components.</p> <p><u>Component 1: Review Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) rebates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This component would provide \$500,000 over one year for a review by the Department of Health of the level and adequacy of MBS and PBS rebates for sexual health, contraception, pregnancy and termination-related services. <p><u>Component 2: Nation-wide system of data collection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This component would provide \$5 million to develop a nation-wide system of data collection in relation to abortion services provided in Australia, coordinated by the Department of Health, and ongoing funding of \$0.5 million per year. <p><u>Component 3: Taskforce on Sexual and Reproductive Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This component would provide \$8 million over four years for a Taskforce on Sexual and Reproductive Health to advocate for access to abortion and other health services for women. <p>The proposal would have effect from 1 September 2016.</p>
Person/party requesting costing:	Senator Richard Di Natale, Australian Greens
Date of public release of policy:	24 May 2016 http://greens.org.au/accessible-abortion
Date costing request received:	30 June 2016
Date costing completed:	30 June 2016
Expiry date for the costing:	Release of the next economic and fiscal outlook report

Costing overview

This proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$15.0 million over the 2016-17 Budget forward estimates period. This is entirely due to an increase in departmental expenses.

Detailed financial implications are provided at [Attachment A](#).

This proposal would be expected to have an ongoing impact beyond the 2016-17 Budget forward estimates period at a similar level to 2019-20 estimates.

This costing is considered to be of high reliability as the estimates are based on capped specified funding amounts. However, no analysis has been undertaken to determine the adequacy of the prescribed funding amounts to achieve the objectives of the proposal.

Table 1: Financial implications (outturn prices)^{(a)(b)}

Impact on (\$m)	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Total
Fiscal balance	-7.5	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-15.0
Underlying cash balance	-7.5	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-15.0

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

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

Methodology

The expenditure for this proposal was based on the specified capped amounts. For the Taskforce on Sexual and Reproductive Health (Component 3), the specified capped amount was spread evenly over four years.

Attachment A: Access to Affordable Abortion—disaggregated financial implications

Table A1: Financial Implications—Fiscal balance and underlying cash balance^{(a) (b)}

(\$m)	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Total to 2019–20
Departmental expenses					
<i>Review of MBS and PBS rebates</i>	-0.5	-	-	-	-0.5
<i>National data system</i>	-5.0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-6.5
<i>Taskforce on Sexual and Reproductive Health</i>	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-2.0	-8.0
Total	-7.5	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-15.0

(a) A positive number indicates an increase in revenue or decrease in expenses or net capital investment in accrual and cash terms. A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses or net capital investment in accrual and cash terms.

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

- Indicates nil.