



Policy costing

Fund anti-racism campaign, introduce a Multicultural Act and establish a Multicultural Commission

Party:

Australian Greens

Summary of proposal:

This proposal has ten components.

- Component 1: Provide \$10 million per year (unindexed) in ongoing grant funding to support community-led programs to counter violent extremism.
 - Departmental costs would be met from within this capped amount.
- Component 2: Extend the current National Anti-Racism Strategy delivered by the Australian Human Rights Commission by providing \$12 million per year to community organisations for programs to create awareness of racism and empower communities to prevent it.
 - This funding would be ongoing and would be indexed by the consumer price index.
- Component 3: Establish an independent Commonwealth Government Multicultural Commission with ongoing funding of \$3.5 million per year, indexed by the consumer price index.
- Component 4: Require all non-corporate Commonwealth entities to report annually to the newly established Commonwealth Government Multicultural Commission in Component 3.
 - Entities would report on action taken to promote multiculturalism, the use of interpreting and translating services, and the extent to which people from diverse backgrounds were represented on boards and committees.
 - All costs for this reporting, including departmental expenses incurred by the reporting entities, would be met from within the capped funding for the Commission.
- Component 5: Provide \$98.2 million over five years to fund multidisciplinary academic research into domestic extremism. Departmental costs would be met from within this capped amount. The funding would include:
 - \$1.4 million over the period 2019-20 to 2023-24 for the Online Hate Prevention Institute to continually update, maintain and expand its Fight Against Hate online system
 - \$6.0 million over the period 2019-20 to 2022-23 for the Australian Intervention Support Hub.
- Component 6: Establish a national database on hate crimes with once-off total funding of \$10 million.
 - The Commonwealth Government would fund \$5 million and the remainder would be provided by the states and territories.
- Component 7: Ban political donations by firearms and ammunition retailers, manufacturers, recreational associations and peak bodies, and prohibit the possession and use of semi-automatic guns in the community.

- Component 8: Initiate a Senate Inquiry through an existing Senate Committee to review the Commonwealth Government’s response to breaches of the National Firearms Agreement.
- Component 9: Create a Commonwealth Parliamentary Code of Conduct to prevent hate speech by politicians, and add hate speech to the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.
- Component 10: Introduce a Charter of Rights in Australia.

The proposal would have effect from 1 July 2019.

Costing overview

This proposal would be expected to decrease both the fiscal balance and underlying cash balance by \$187.8 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This reflects an increase in administered expenses of \$113.3 million and an increase in departmental expenses of \$74.5 million.

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.

The financial implications for all components except Component 7 are entirely or reasonably certain.

- Components 1 to 6 are either capped amounts or are estimated based on similar-sized programs.
- Components 8 to 10 would not have any material financial implications for the Commonwealth Government.

The financial implications of Component 7, which includes banning political donations from firearms-related groups, are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. Any enabling legislation could be subject to legal challenges, and associated costs to the Commonwealth are uncertain but potentially substantial. Consistent with the budget treatment of potential legal challenges, however, a provision for legal expenses is not included in the financial implications, as funds are allocated only when it is clear that a financial liability would be incurred. As such, this component is estimated to have no financial impact.

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

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	-50.2	-45.6	-46.0	-46.4	-187.8
Underlying cash balance	-50.2	-45.6	-46.0	-46.4	-187.8

(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 8

- The Senate Inquiry into the Commonwealth Government's response to breaches of the National Firearms Agreement would not have any financial implications as it would be part of normal Committee operations.

Components 9 and 10

- There would be no material financial costs to the Commonwealth Government associated with implementing these legislative components.

Methodology

Components 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6

Financial implications are equal to the specified capped amounts. Where relevant, departmental estimates to administer the components were based on similar-sized grant programs.

Component 4

The financial implications were estimated based on the expected staffing requirement to compile the required annual reports for each non-corporate Commonwealth entity. As per the specification, the costs to non-corporate Commonwealth entities associated with compiling reports for Component 4 have been subtracted from the funding allocated in Component 3 to the Multicultural Commission.

All estimates have been rounded to the nearest \$100,000.

Data sources

The Department of Finance provided indexation and efficiency dividend parameters as at the 2019 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

Attachment A – Fund anti-racism campaign, introduce a Multicultural Act and establish a Multicultural Commission – financial implications

Table A1: Fund anti-racism campaign, introduce a Multicultural Act and establish a Multicultural Commission – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Component 1 – Grant funding to counter violent extremism					
<i>Administered</i>	-8.8	-9.4	-9.4	-9.4	-37.0
<i>Departmental</i>	-1.2	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-3.0
Total – Component 1	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-10.0	-40.0
Component 2 – Extend the current National Anti-Racism Strategy					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-12.0	-12.3	-12.6	-12.9	-49.7
Total – Component 2	-12.0	-12.3	-12.6	-12.9	-49.7
Component 3 – Establish an independent Commonwealth Government Multicultural Commission					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-2.9	-3.0	-3.1	-3.2	-12.3
Total – Component 3	-2.9	-3.0	-3.1	-3.2	-12.3
Component 4 – Annual reporting on multiculturalism initiatives					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-2.2
Total – Component 4	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-2.2
Component 5 – Fund academic research into domestic extremism					
<i>Administered</i>	-19.1	-19.1	-19.1	-19.1	-76.3
<i>Departmental</i>	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-2.3
Total – Component 5	-19.7	-19.7	-19.7	-19.7	-78.6
Component 6 – Establish a national database on hate crimes					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-5.0	-	-	-	-5.0
Total – Component 6	-5.0	-	-	-	-5.0
Component 7 – Ban political donations by firearms and ammunition retailers, manufacturers, recreational associations and peak bodies, and prohibit the possession and use of semi-automatic guns in the community					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Component 7	-	-	-	-	-
Component 8 – Initiate a Senate Inquiry to review the Commonwealth Government’s response to breaches of the National Firearms Agreement					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Component 8	-	-	-	-	-

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Component 9 – Create a Code of Conduct to prevent hate speech by politicians, and add hate speech to the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i>					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Component 9	-	-	-	-	-
Component 10 – Introduce a Charter of Rights					
<i>Administered</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Departmental</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total – Component 10	-	-	-	-	-
Total – expenses	-50.2	-45.6	-46.0	-46.4	-187.8

- (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.