



Policy costing

Swim Smart	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>This proposal would introduce a new program: Swim and Survive in Schools – A National Water Safety Initiative.</p> <p>The program would have the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The swimming and water safety training would be based on the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework.• The program would give access to instruction in swimming and water safety equivalent to level 4 of the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework.• The program would be administered by state and territory education departments (not the Commonwealth). <p>The Commonwealth would provide all state and territory governments with \$55 for each of their year 3 students. Funding would be indexed each year by the consumer price index.</p> <p>This Commonwealth funding commitment would be matched by funding from state and territory governments.</p> <p>The proposal would have effect from the start of 2020 school year.</p>	

Costing overview

This proposal would be expected to decrease both the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$64.0 million over the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period. This impact entirely reflects an increase in administered expenses.

The proposal would be expected to have an ongoing impact beyond the 2019-20 Budget forward estimates period.

As the proposal would be administered by state and territory government education departments, Commonwealth departmental expenses are not expected to be significant and have not been included in the costing.

The financial implications are sensitive to the projected number of year 3 students, the assumption that all state and territory governments would provide matched funding, and the consumer price index projection.

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

	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Total to 2022–23
Fiscal balance	-8.9	-17.8	-18.4	-18.9	-64.0
Underlying cash balance	-8.9	-17.8	-18.4	-18.9	-64.0

(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.

- The number of year 3 students would grow in line with the projected Australian population growth for year-3-aged children.
- All state and territory governments would provide matched funding.

Methodology

The impact of the proposal was calculated by multiplying the estimated number of year 3 students by the \$55 per student (indexed annually by the consumer price index) provided by the Commonwealth.

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

Estimates of the number of year 3 students have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Data sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Schools, Australia*, ABS Cat. No. 4221.0, 3 March 2019.

The Treasury provided the Australian population by age (historical data and projections) as at the 2019 Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

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