



Justice for All	
Party:	Australian Greens
Summary of proposal: This proposal consists of 2 components. <b>Component 1</b> would provide additional Australian Government funding for legal assistance providers: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, Legal Aid Commissions, community legal centres, and women’s legal services. The current contribution of Australian Government funding would be doubled and an additional \$310 million per year would also be provided, indexed to the consumer price index. The proposal would start on 1 July 2022 and end on 30 June 2025 when the <i>National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25</i> agreement ends. <b>Component 2</b> would establish an ongoing Environment and Heritage Legal Defence Fund from 1 July 2022. Funding would be double the 2021-22 Budget funding of the <i>Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund (ECCCF)</i> and be indexed to the relevant wage cost index (WCI).	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease both the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$2,570 million over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period.

This proposal would not have an ongoing impact beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including a separate public debt interest (PDI) table) over the period to 2032-33 is provided at Attachment A.

**Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total to 2025-26
Fiscal balance	-833.7	-850.9	-867.6	-18.0	<b>-2,570.2</b>
Underlying cash balance	-833.7	-850.9	-867.6	-18.0	<b>-2,570.2</b>

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

(b) PDI impacts are not included in the totals.

## Key assumptions

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has assumed that Component 2 would require an additional 0.25 full time equivalent Australian Public Service (APS) 6 and Executive Level (EL) 1 staff to administer the Environment and Heritage Legal Defence Fund.

## Methodology

Each component was modelled separately. Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules as outlined on the PBO Costings and budget information webpage.<sup>1</sup>

### Component 1

The financial implications were estimated by doubling the Australian Government contribution for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 under the *National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25* agreement and adding an additional \$310 million. The additional \$310 million per year, commencing in 2022-23, is indexed over the remainder of the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period in line with the CPI.

### Component 2

The administered expenses over the 2021-22 forward estimates were calculated as being equal to double the 2021-22 Budget estimates for the ECCCCF. For the 2025-26 year, the 2022-23 Budget estimate for the ECCCCF was used. These estimates were indexed to the relevant WCI over the period to 2032-33, consistent with the current arrangements for the ECCCCF. Departmental expenses were estimated using the departmental cost calculator provided by the Department of Finance and the assumption outlined above.

## Data sources

The economic parameters were provided by the Department of Finance and the Treasury as at the *Budget 2022-23*.

Australian Government (2022) *Federal Financial Relations Budget Paper No. 3 2022-23*, Australian Government.

Attorney-General's Department (2022) [National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25](#), Australian Government, accessed 3 June 2022.

Attorney-General's Department (2021) *Attorney-General's Portfolio Budget Statement 2021-22*, Australian Government.

Attorney-General's Department (2022) *Attorney-General's Portfolio Budget Statement 2022-23*, Australian Government.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Budget\\_Office/Costings\\_and\\_budget\\_information](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Budget_Office/Costings_and_budget_information)

## Attachment A – Justice for All – financial implications

**Table A1: Justice for All – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)</sup>**

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	Total to 2025-26	Total to 2032-33
<b>Expenses</b>													
<b>Administered</b>													
<i>Component 1 - Supporting Legal Assistance Providers</i>	-817.0	-834.0	-850.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2,501.0	-2,501.0
<i>Component 2 - Environment &amp; Heritage Legal Defence Fund</i>	-16.6	-16.8	-17.5	-17.9	-18.2	-18.5	-18.7	-19.0	-19.3	-19.6	-19.9	-68.8	-202.0
<b>Departmental</b>													
<i>Component 2 - Environment &amp; Heritage Legal Defence Fund</i>	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-1.1
<b>Total – departmental</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>-833.7</b>	<b>-850.9</b>	<b>-867.6</b>	<b>-18.0</b>	<b>-18.3</b>	<b>-18.6</b>	<b>-18.8</b>	<b>-19.1</b>	<b>-19.4</b>	<b>-19.7</b>	<b>-20.0</b>	<b>-2,570.2</b>	<b>-2,704.1</b>

(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.

- Indicates nil.

**Table A2: Justice for All – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	Total to 2025-26	Total to 2032-33
<b>Fiscal balance</b>	-9.4	-28.8	-48.9	-60.0	-61.9	-64.1	-66.4	-69.0	-71.8	-75.0	-84.1	<b>-147.1</b>	<b>-639.4</b>
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	-8.3	-26.4	-46.5	-58.7	-61.7	-63.8	-66.1	-68.7	-71.5	-74.6	-83.0	<b>-139.9</b>	<b>-629.3</b>

- (a) As this table is presented as a memorandum item, these figures are not reflected in the totals in the table above. This is consistent with the approach taken in the budget where the budget impact of most measures is presented excluding the impact on PDI. If the reader would like a complete picture of the total aggregate, then these figures would need to be added to the figures above. For further information on government borrowing and financing please refer to the PBO's online budget glossary<sup>2</sup>.
- (b) 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.
- Indicates nil.

<sup>2</sup> [Online budget glossary – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au)