



Accessible Australia	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>This proposal has 5 components which would take effect from 1 July 2022.</p> <p><b>Component 1:</b> Ensure the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) works for disabled people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Invest \$300 million over 4 years to enhance the compliance and investigative capacity of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.</li><li>Redirect the \$160 million committed to corporations to run independent assessments to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).</li><li>Remove the current age requirements so that people over the age of 65 can make access requests for the NDIS and become participants of the NDIS.</li></ol> <p><b>Component 2:</b> Accessible transport, infrastructure, and communications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Invest \$1 billion over 4 years to boost accessible public transport across Australia.</li><li>Provide \$3 billion over 4 years to establish a new Accessible Infrastructure Fund, including a \$30 million Accessible Nature Fund, available to state and local governments to retrofit existing public places and infrastructure to accessibility standards, and increase access to nature and tourism activities for people with disabilities.</li><li>Invest \$30 million over 4 years, followed by ongoing funding to increase the availability of Australian Sign Language (AUSLAN) interpreters, improve relay and translation services and expand the regulatory requirement for audio description and captioning services to commercial television channels.</li><li>Provide \$1.49 million over 2 years, followed by ongoing annual funding of \$2 million indexed by the consumer price index (CPI) to establish a National Disability Telecommunications Service. This would be a national resource for communications products and services information, training, and support.</li><li>Invest \$5 million over 4 years to re-establish a safe, dedicated online platform for the promotion of discussion, debate, and cultural development within the disability community, similar to the ABC's defunded Ramp Up.</li></ol> <p><b>Component 3:</b> Increase Commonwealth funding for disability advocacy bodies by \$30 million over 4 years, which includes \$2m to fund the Queensland Disability Network to operate the Targeted Outreach project, followed by ongoing funding.</p> <p><b>Component 4:</b> Provide funding for inclusive education training and upskilling for principals, teachers and university lecturers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Invest an initial commitment of \$10 million over 4 years to co-design a National Inclusive Education Transition Plan with disabled people, families, disability representative organisations, teachers and their representative unions, and education experts.</li><li>Incorporate a one-semester unit covering inclusive education in all tertiary teacher training. Building inclusive education into tertiary qualifications.</li></ol>	

c. Provide \$400 million over 4 years, followed by ongoing funding to all pre-service and in-service teachers and principals to train, retrain and regularly upskill in inclusive education practices.

**Component 5:** Invest \$15 million over 4 years, followed by ongoing funding to ensure emergency responders and disaster relief services receive disability awareness training.

Departmental expenses would be met outside the capped funding amounts.

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$9.19 billion over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. This impact reflects a net increase in administered expenses of around \$9.03 billion and an increase in departmental expenses of \$160 million.

The proposal would have ongoing impact beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate PDI tables) 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	<b>Total to 2025-26</b>
Fiscal balance	-2,238.2	-2,148.2	-2,319.5	-2,479.6	<b>-9,185.5</b>
Underlying cash balance	-2,238.2	-2,148.2	-2,319.5	-2,479.6	<b>-9,185.5</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.

- Indicates nil.

## Sensitivity and uncertainty

The financial implications for Component 1c are extremely sensitive to:

- the estimated number of NDIS participants over the medium term
- the take-up rate of NDIS assessments as a result of the proposal
- the prevalence of disability for those aged 65 years and older
- the broader flow-on effects from the proposed bulk-billed NDIS assessments
- the number of applicants using existing MBS health assessment services who would switch to this new assessment service in response to the proposal.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) considered the broader effects of the proposal, including the flow-on impacts to the NDIS and the public health system. These effects are highly uncertain and have not been included in this costing.

In relation to the components of this proposal where funding was proposed as specified capped amounts, the PBO has not assessed whether this amount would be sufficient to deliver the specified outcome.

## Key assumptions

The PBO has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

### Component 1b

- Only the funding in 2022-23 for the NDIS Independent Assessment program would be returned to the NDIA.
  - The Australian Government provided 3 years of funding from 2020-21 to 2022-23 for the NDIS Independent Assessment program, but terminated the program in 2021-22.

### Component 1c

- The proportion of people over the age of 65 that would access the NDIS would be the same as for those aged 55 to 64 on 31 December 2021, and would grow in line with the total uptake of the NDIS in proportion to the population.
- The average cost per new NDIS participant would be broadly similar to those aged 55-64 years.
- All new participants over the age of 65 would be diverted from aged care packages, at the highest care level.
  - 80% of new recipients would be from residential care while the remaining 20% would be from home care (level 4), consistent with the current distribution of individuals between residential and home care.

### Component 4b

- There would be nil financial impact, as students will substitute one of their existing courses to study the inclusive education training as part of their university studies.
- The cost to set up the new course will be met within existing university arrangements.
- The training would be able to be completed without back-filling teaching positions.

## Methodology

### Components 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4a, 4c and 5

- The financial impacts are the specified capped amounts over the forward estimates period.
- Ongoing funding for Components 2c, 3, 4c and 5 would be indexed to CPI from 2026-27.

### Component 1c

- Administered costs were estimated by multiplying the projected additional recipients aged 65 and over by the average annualised payment amount, less savings from aged care.
- Projected additional recipients aged over 65 were calculated by multiplying the proportion of people over the age of 65 accessing the NDIS (as outlined above on page 4) by the projected population.
- The average annualised payment amount was calculated based on actual payments as at 31 December 2021, grown by a combination of wages (75%) and the consumer price index (25%), and a small amount of additional growth reflecting a growing utilisation of the scheme among the participants as they become increasingly skilled to navigate the scheme.
- Savings from aged care were based on the average cost per recipient multiplied by the number of recipients moving to the NDIS.

- The PBO's NDIS participant baseline projection was updated to reflect the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates figures provided by the Department of Social Services. Projections over the medium term are based on growth factors derived from the Scheme Actuary's *Annual Financial Sustainability Report July 2021* published by the NDIA.

Departmental expenses were estimated based on previous Budget measures, unless otherwise specified.

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

## Data sources

The Department of Finance and the Treasury provided economic parameters and population projections as at the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2022.

The Department of Health provided aged care recipient and expenditure data projections as at the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2022.

Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), [Beyond the budget 2021-22: Fiscal outlook and scenarios](#), PBO, accessed 9 May 2022.

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), [Average payments data 31 December 2021](#), NDIA, Australian Government, accessed 9 May 2022.

NDIA, [NDIS Quarterly Report to disability ministers](#), NDIA, Australian Government, accessed 9 May 2022.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia](#), ABS, Australian Government, 2019, accessed 9 May 2022.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), [Autism in Australia](#), AIHW, Australian Government, 2017, accessed 9 May 2022.

L Gordon, L Holden, R Ware, M Taylor and N Lennox, [Comprehensive health assessments for adults with intellectual disability living in the community](#), *Australian Family Physician*, 41(12):969-972, December 2012, accessed 9 May 2022.

NDIA, [National Disability Insurance Scheme: Annual Financial Sustainability Report Summary – Interim update](#). NDIA, Australian Government, July 2021, accessed 9 May 2022.

The Help Centre, [Price list of assessment](#), The Help Centre website, 2021, accessed 9 May 2022.

Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), [Selected Higher Education Statistics: 2017, 2018 and 2019 Student data](#), DESE, Australian Government, accessed 9 May 2022.

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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 – Accessible Australia – financial implications

**Table A1: Accessible Australia – 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>													
Component 1a	-75.0	-75.0	-75.0	-75.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-300.0	-300.0
Component 1b	160.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160.0	160.0
Component 1c	-1,040.0	-950.0	-1,120.0	-1,280.0	-1,430.0	-1,570.0	-1,720.0	-1,880.0	-2,010.0	-2,170.0	-2,320.0	-4,390.0	-17,490.0
Component 2a	-250.0	-250.0	-250.0	-250.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1,000.0	-1,000.0
Component 2b	-750.0	-750.0	-750.0	-750.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-3,000.0	-3,000.0
Component 2c	-7.5	-7.5	-7.5	-7.5	-7.7	-7.9	-8.1	-8.3	-8.5	-8.7	-8.9	-30.0	-88.1
Component 2d	-0.7	-0.7	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.2	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4	-2.4	-5.5	-21.4
Component 2e	-1.25	-1.25	-1.25	-1.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-5.0	-5.0
Component 3	-7.5	-7.5	-7.5	-7.5	-7.7	-7.9	-8.1	-8.3	-8.5	-8.7	-8.9	-30.0	-88.1
Component 4a	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-10.0	-10.0
Component 4b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Component 4c	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0	-100.0	-102.0	-105.0	-107.0	-110.0	-113.0	-116.0	-119.0	-400.0	-1,172.0
Component 5	-3.75	-3.75	-3.75	-3.75	-3.8	-3.9	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.3	-4.5	-15.0	-44.0
<b>Total – administered</b>	<b>-2,078.2</b>	<b>-2,148.2</b>	<b>-2,319.5</b>	<b>-2,479.6</b>	<b>-1,553.3</b>	<b>-1,696.9</b>	<b>-1,849.4</b>	<b>-2,013.0</b>	<b>-2,146.5</b>	<b>-2,310.1</b>	<b>-2,463.7</b>	<b>-9,025.5</b>	<b>-23,058.6</b>
<b>Departmental</b>													
NDIA	-160.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-160.0	-160.0
<b>Total – departmental</b>	<b>-160.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-160.0</b>	<b>-160.0</b>									
<b>Total – expenses</b>	<b>-2,238.2</b>	<b>-2,148.2</b>	<b>-2,319.5</b>	<b>-2,479.6</b>	<b>-1,553.3</b>	<b>-1,696.9</b>	<b>-1,849.4</b>	<b>-2,013.0</b>	<b>-2,146.5</b>	<b>-2,310.1</b>	<b>-2,463.7</b>	<b>-9,185.5</b>	<b>-23,218.6</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>-2,238.2</b>	<b>-2,148.2</b>	<b>-2,319.5</b>	<b>-2,479.6</b>	<b>-1,553.3</b>	<b>-1,696.9</b>	<b>-1,849.4</b>	<b>-2,013.0</b>	<b>-2,146.5</b>	<b>-2,310.1</b>	<b>-2,463.7</b>	<b>-9,185.5</b>	<b>-23,218.6</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: Accessible Australia – 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><i>Fiscal balance</i></b>	-25.0	-76.0	-128.0	-185.0	-237.0	-285.0	-342.0	-410.0	-489.0	-581.0	-701.0	<b>-414.0</b>	<b>-3,459.0</b>
<b><i>Underlying cash balance</i></b>	-22.0	-70.0	-122.0	-179.0	-231.0	-280.0	-336.0	-402.0	-480.0	-570.0	-687.0	<b>-393.0</b>	<b>-3,379.0</b>

- (a) As this table is presented as a memorandum item, these figures are not reflected in the totals in the tables 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.

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