



Ambassador for First Nations People - reverse	
Party:	The Coalition
Summary of proposal: The proposal would cease the standalone role or office of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Ambassador for First Nations People. The proposal would commence on 1 July 2025.	
Additional information (based on further advice provided): The expenses associated with Ambassador is the direct costs of the Ambassadorship (i.e. ambassador role and any support costs for the role).	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$2.7 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects a decrease in departmental expenses.

The proposal would be expected to have an impact beyond the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate public debt interest (PDI) tables) over the period to 2035-36 is provided at Attachment A.

**Table 1: Ambassador for First Nations People - reverse – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.7
Underlying cash balance	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.7

(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 and methodology

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provided the average staffing level profile for the Ambassador for First Nations Peoples position and associated support staff for 2023-24 and for 2024-25 as at 30 November 2024.
  - The PBO calculated the salary costs in 2023-24 from the mid-point of the salary range for the relevant level from the DFAT Annual Report 2023-24 (Ambassadors) and DFAT Enterprise Agreement 2024 (support staff).
  - Support staff for Ambassadors includes executive officers and executive assistants. Given these staff generally support multiple Senior Executive personnel, the staffing level was reported as the portion of the role directly supporting the relevant Ambassador.

- DFAT provided 2023-24 and 2024-25 partial year figures for travel and direct operational costs.
  - This data excluded costs not directly related to the role and function of the Ambassador.
  - Direct operational costs include credit card transactions and other costs charged in the course of Ambassadorial duties, for example motor vehicle, taxi, representation, freight, office administration, plant and equipment, medical and printing.
- Given the partial information available for the 2024-25 financial year, the PBO estimated the 2024-25 full year impacts as follows:
  - Ambassador and support staff salary costs for 2024-25 were calculated based on the mid-point salary level in 2023-24, grown in line with the Wage Cost Index (WCI) 6 in 2024-25.
  - The travel and operational estimates were calculated by scaling the 2024-25 partial year data to reflect the full year impact.

The financial implications were calculated based on the expenses including ambassador and support staff salary, travel and accommodation, direct operational cost in 2024-25, and then grown in line with the WCI 6 for all years.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.<sup>1</sup>

## Data sources

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provided relevant information on Ambassadors.

The Treasury provided economic parameters as at the 2025-26 Budget.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2024), [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Annual Report 2023-24](#), accessed on 12 May 2025.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2024), [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Enterprise Agreement 2024](#), accessed on 12 May 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules>

## Attachment A – Ambassador for First Nations People - reverse – Financial implications

**Table A1: Ambassador for First Nations People - reverse – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	Total to 2028-29	Total to 2035-36
<b>Expenses</b>													
<i>Departmental</i>													
<i>Ambassador for First Nations People</i>	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	2.7	7.9
<b>Total – expenses</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>						
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>7.9</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.

**Table A2: Ambassador for First Nations People - reverse – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	Total to 2028-29	Total to 2035-36
<i>Fiscal balance</i>	..	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	2.1
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	..	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	2.0

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

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

<sup>2</sup> [Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office \(pbo.gov.au\)](https://www.pbo.gov.au/online-budget-glossary)