



National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish a National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to antisemitism.</p> <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2025.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The Code would include transparent complaints reporting obligations concerning breaches of university policy by students and staff relating to antisemitism.</p> <p>The National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence would be used as a precedent.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$19.2 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in administered 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: National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism
National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-8.1	-3.6	-3.7	-3.8	-19.2
Underlying cash balance	-8.1	-3.6	-3.7	-3.8	-19.2

(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 made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

- The cost of the National Code would be similar to the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence in the 2024-25 Budget measure *Australian Universities Accord – tertiary education system reforms*,¹ grown by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
 - Similar to the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence, the Code would set rules for higher education providers to embed a whole-of-organisation approach to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism. This would include the Department of Education leading consultation on the development of the Code and the addition of a new unit in the Department of Education that would be responsible for ensuring compliance and building the capability of providers.
 - The funding would be spread evenly (before indexation), with the first-year equivalent to around 50% of total funding in the forward estimates period to reflect start up and implementation costs of the code.

Methodology

The National Code financial implications were calculated per the policy specifications and *Key assumptions*.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.²

Data sources

Commonwealth of Australia (2024) *2024-25 Budget*, Commonwealth of Australia.

Commonwealth of Australia (2025) *Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2025*, Commonwealth of Australia.

¹ *Australian Universities Accord – tertiary education system reforms* measure includes \$18.7 million over 4 years from 2024–25 (and an additional \$28.8 million from 2028–29 to 2034–35) to introduce a National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence from 1 January 2025, [Budget Paper 2 2024-25](#), page 63.

² <https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules>

Attachment A – National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism – Financial implications

Table A1: National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^(a)

	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
Expenses													
Administered													
<i>National Higher Education code to prevent and respond to antisemitism</i>	-8.1	-3.6	-3.7	-3.8	-3.9	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.3	-4.4	-4.5	-19.2	-48.6
Total (excluding PDI)	-8.1	-3.6	-3.7	-3.8	-3.9	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.3	-4.4	-4.5	-19.2	-48.6

(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: National Higher Education Code to prevent and respond to anti-Semitism – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	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
Fiscal balance	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.3	-1.5	-1.7	-2.0	-2.3	-2.6	-2.0	-14.4
Underlying cash balance	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.7	-2.0	-2.2	-2.5	-1.9	-13.9

- (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.³
- (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.

³ [Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office \(pbo.gov.au\)](https://pbo.gov.au/)