



National Child Sex Offender Register – one year trial	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would provide \$21.3 million in 2025-26 for a 12-month pilot of a National Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (the Scheme) to empower parents to protect their children.</p> <p>The Scheme would allow members of the public to request information from the police about whether an individual who interacts with their children is a convicted sex offender.</p> <p>It would be modelled on existing schemes operating right now in Western Australia and the UK, which have been running successfully for more than a decade.</p> <p>The Scheme would allow law enforcement to disclose, on application, relevant information to a parent or guardian, on a case-by-case basis, once police have undertaken the necessary checks. Information would only be released to individuals where they have a genuine relationship to the child and police determine it is appropriate to do so.</p> <p>The proposal would be non-ongoing and start from 1 July 2025.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The Australian Government would establish and host a national register of child sex offenders, consisting of data from across all states and territories.</p> <p>The implementation costs for state and territory law enforcement agencies to provide the application and disclosure service to the public would be paid by the Australian Government.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by \$21.3 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in administered and departmental expenses.

The proposal would not be expected to have an impact beyond the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period, other than for public debt interest (PDI) costs. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate PDI tables) over the period to 2035-36 is provided at Attachment A.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has not made any assessment as to whether the specified funding would be sufficient to meet the objectives of the proposal.

Table 1: National Child Sex Offender Register – one year trial – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-21.3	-	-	-	-21.3
Underlying cash balance	-21.3	-	-	-	-21.3

(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.

Key assumptions

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

- The proposal would extend the 2019-20 Budget measure *National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders* in that the states and territories would vet and manage data included on the register, and administer and manage disclosure applications made.¹
- The capital and administration costs at the Australian Government level would be broadly consistent with the estimates for the 2019-20 Budget measure *National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders*, adjusted for inflation.
- States and territories would require additional capital funding and resourcing to align and vet information for the national register, as well as manage applications and disclosures.
 - These costs would reflect the base cost estimated for the Australian Government plus the increased administration scope at the state and territory level.

Methodology

The costs of the scheme were based on the 2019-20 Budget measure *National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders*, adjusted for inflation and the increased scope in administration.

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

Data sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2025) [Corrective Services](#), accessed 13 May 2025.

Commonwealth of Australia (2019) *2019-20 Budget*, Commonwealth of Australia.

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

¹ *National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders*: \$7.8 million over 4 years from 2019-20 (including \$3.5 million in capital funding) to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission to establish and host a publicly available National Public Register of Child Sex Offenders, page 113 [Budget Paper No. 2](#), 2019-20 Budget.

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

Attachment A – National Child Sex Offender Register – one year trial – Financial implications

Table A1: National Child Sex Offender Register – one year trial – 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													
Total – administered	-18.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-18.4	-18.4
Total – departmental	-2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2.9	-2.9
Total (excluding PDI)	-21.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-21.3	-21.3

- (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: National Child Sex Offender Register – one year trial – 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	-0.5	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.4	-3.6	-12.4
Underlying cash balance	-0.4	-0.8	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.4	-3.2	-11.9

- (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/)