



National School Chaplaincy Program – additional resourcing	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would increase support for the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) and apply indexation to the program from 1 January 2023.</p> <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 January 2026.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>Funding would be increased to what it would have been had indexation applied from calendar year 2023 in line with the indexation rate from the Better and Fairer School Funding Agreement.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$42.4 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in administered expenses associated with the NSCP.

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 School Chaplaincy Program – additional resourcing – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-4.6	-10.3	-12.5	-15.0	-42.4
Underlying cash balance	-4.6	-10.3	-12.5	-15.0	-42.4

(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 assumption in costing this proposal.

- Reverting the name of the program back to NSCP would have no impact on the number of participating schools.
 - The NSCP was renamed the National School Wellbeing Program in 2023, with adjusted eligibility and funding levels for states and territories (that is, participating schools would receive up to \$20,280 in metropolitan areas and \$24,336 in remote or very remote areas).

Methodology

The financial implications are derived from applying the Schools Resourcing Standard indexation rate (provided by the Department of Education) to the baseline funding from 1 January 2023 with effect from the start date of 1 January 2026.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.¹

Data sources

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

The Department of Education provided the total number of schools receiving funding for the National School Wellbeing Program.

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

Attachment A – National School Chaplaincy Program – additional resourcing – Financial implications

Table A1: National School Chaplaincy Program – additional resourcing – 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													
<i>Administered</i>													
<i>Apply indexation</i>	-4.6	-10.3	-12.5	-15.0	-17.4	-19.8	-22.2	-24.7	-27.3	-30.0	-32.7	-42.4	-216.5
Total – expenses	-4.6	-10.3	-12.5	-15.0	-17.4	-19.8	-22.2	-24.7	-27.3	-30.0	-32.7	-42.4	-216.5
Total (excluding PDI)	-4.6	-10.3	-12.5	-15.0	-17.4	-19.8	-22.2	-24.7	-27.3	-30.0	-32.7	-42.4	-216.5

(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 School Chaplaincy Program – additional resourcing – 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	-0.1	-0.4	-1.0	-1.6	-2.4	-3.3	-4.4	-5.7	-7.1	-8.7	-10.6	-3.1	-45.3
Underlying cash balance	-0.1	-0.4	-0.8	-1.4	-2.2	-3.1	-4.2	-5.4	-6.8	-8.3	-10.1	-2.7	-42.8

(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 glossary².

(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.

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