



Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman – additional resourcing	
Party:	The Coalition
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would provide additional funding to support the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman (ASBFEO) to undertake performance reviews of how government agencies deal with small businesses.</p> <p>The ASBFEO will work alongside Investment Australia to ensure small business outcomes are at the heart of the red tape reduction strategy.</p> <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2025</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$12.1 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase 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.

The financial implications of this costing are uncertain and rely on assumptions around the number of staff employed by the ASBFEO currently working on the performance review matters. The time and resourcing spent on the performance review matters can fluctuate due to unforeseen resources change.

Table 1: Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman – additional resourcing – Financial implications (\$m) ^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-8.0	-1.5	-1.3	-1.3	-12.1
Underlying cash balance	-8.0	-1.5	-1.3	-1.3	-12.1

(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 departmental costs were estimated based on assuming the ASBFEO ASL profiles are in a similar proportion to the Fair Work Commission¹. Adjustments are made to scale up the number of staff to reflect the increased funding under the proposal.

¹ ASBFEO does not report on its funding or staffing profile.

- Assumed high volume of performance reviews in 2025-26, which will then scale down to a smaller number of reviews and ongoing monitoring in subsequent years.
- The estimated ASL profiles have sufficient capacity to implement the proposal's intended activities.
- The cost of ASL was estimated using PBO's departmental calculator that takes account of indexation to Wage Cost index (WCI) 3, and the application of an efficiency dividend.

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

Data sources

Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, [About us | ASBFEO](#), accessed 20 May 2025.

Fair Work Commission, [Quarterly reports | Fair Work Commission](#), accessed 20 May 2025.

Fair Work Commission, [Fair Work Commission Annual Report 2024](#), accessed 20 May 2025.

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

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

Attachment A – Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman – additional resourcing – Financial implications

Table A1: Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman – 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>Departmental</i>													
<i>ASBEFO additional funding</i>	-8.0	-1.5	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.5	-12.1	-22.1
Total (excluding PDI)	-8.0	-1.5	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.5	-12.1	-22.1

(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: Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman – 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	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.2	-1.3	-1.7	-8.2
Underlying cash balance	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.4	-7.7

- (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 glossary³.
- (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/online-budget-glossary)