

ECR-2025-2477

Anti-Semitism Taskforce								
Party:	The Coalition							
Summary of proposal:								
The proposal would fund a new Antisemitism Taskforce led by the Australian Federal Police to investigate crimes against the Jewish community and refer any visa holders involved in acts of antisemitism for immediate cancellation and deportation.								
The proposal would commence 1 July 2025.								
Additional information (based on further advice provided):								
Australian Criminal Intel	ncorporate the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), the lligence Commission (ACIC), the Australian Transaction Reports and AC), the Australian Border Force (ABF), and state police.							

• The proposal would cover resource costs of Commonwealth staff only. The funding would be non-ongoing and last for 4 years from commencement.

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$28.3 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 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: Anti-Semitism Taskforce – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-5.7	-7.4	-7.5	-7.7	-28.3
Underlying cash balance	-5.7	-7.4	-7.5	-7.7	-28.3

(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.

Key assumptions

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

- The required departmental resourcing for the AFP-led taskforce, including representatives from ASIO, ACIC, ABF and AUSTRAC, would be equivalent to ongoing resources provided in the 2024-25 Budget measure: National Security Agencies – additional funding to continue the Counter Foreign Interference Taskforce.¹
- Four full-time equivalent (FTE) positions from ASIO would be incorporated into the Taskforce, with 2 each at Executive Level 2 (EL2) and Executive Level 1 (EL1).
- Two FTE positions from each of ACIC, AUSTRAC and the ABF would be incorporated into the Taskforce, one EL2 and one EL1 each.
- Departmental expenses for each agency would grow in line with the Wage Cost Index 3 (WCI-3).
- The resourcing required for the Taskforce would be in addition to any existing Commonwealth resourcing to address incidents of antisemitism.
 - Additional capital expenditure would not be required, similar to the expansion of funding for other taskforces.
- The states and territories would cooperate with the Australian Government on the initiative, including contributing state police resourcing to the Taskforce.

Methodology

The departmental expenses for the Taskforce were estimated based on the ongoing financial implications of the *Counter Foreign Interference Taskforce* in the 2024-25 Budget measure: *National Security Agencies – additional funding* and grown in line with the WCI-3. First-year additional resourcing was scaled by 80% to allow for the time to hire new staff.

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

Data sources

Australian Federal Police (9 December 2024) <u>AFP to lead Special Operation Avalite to investigate anti-</u> <u>Semitism | Australian Federal Police</u> [media release], Australian Federal Police, accessed 9 May 2025.

Commonwealth of Australia (2024) <u>National Security Agencies – additional funding</u>, 2024-25 Budget Paper No.2, page 137, Commonwealth of Australia.

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

¹2024-25 Budget, Budget Paper No.2, *National Security Agencies – additional funding*, page 137.

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

Attachment A – Anti-Semitism Taskforce – Financial implications

Table A1: Anti-Semitism Taskforce – 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													
Departmental													
Australian Federal Police	-4.1	-5.3	-5.4	-5.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-20.4	-20.4
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	-0.7	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-3.4	-3.4
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1.5	-1.5
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1.5	-1.5
Australian Border Force	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1.5	-1.5
Total (excluding PDI)	-5.7	-7.4	-7.5	-7.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-28.3	-28.3

(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 negative 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 an increase in payments or net capital investment in cash terms. A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates a decrease in payments or net capital investment in cash terms.

- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Anti-Semitism Taskforce – 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	-0.8	-1.2	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-2.5	-13.5
Underlying cash balance	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-1.1	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-2.3	-13.2

(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 negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in payments or net capital investment in cash terms. A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in payments or net capital investment in cash terms. A negative number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in payments or net capital investment in cash terms.

³ Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office (pbo.gov.au)