

ECR-2025-3281

| Increase ANAO funding | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Party: | Australian Greens |

Summary of proposal:

The proposal would increase funding to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) by 5% to conduct more government audits each year.

The proposal be ongoing and start from 1 July 2026.

Additional information (based on further advice provided):

Funding would be increased for Program 1.2 (*Performance Audit Services*) with the objective of increasing the targeted number of audit reports presented to Parliament per year from 48 to 55.

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$6.3 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: Increase ANAO funding – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | Total to 2028-29 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Fiscal balance | - | -2.1 | -2.1 | -2.1 | -6.3 |
| Underlying cash balance | - | -2.1 | -2.1 | -2.1 | -6.3 |

⁽a) A positive number represents an increase in the relevant budget balance; a negative number represents a decrease.

Methodology

For the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period, funding for ANAO Program 1.2 *Performance Audit Services* was increased by 5% to derive the extra funding amount over this period.

Beyond the forward estimates, the extra funding was derived by applying the appropriate annual indexation factor (WCI 3) to the extra funding for 2028-29 (as the last year of the forward estimates).

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

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⁽b) PDI impacts are not included in the totals.

⁻ Indicates nil.

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

Data sources

Funding figures for the ANAO were sourced from the 2025-26 Budget Portfolio Budget Statements for the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio.

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

Attachment A – Increase ANAO funding – Financial implications

Table A1: Increase ANAO funding – 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 – departmental | - | -2.1 | -2.1 | -2.1 | -2.2 | -2.2 | -2.3 | -2.3 | -2.4 | -2.4 | -2.5 | -6.3 | -22.6 |
| Total (excluding PDI) | - | -2.1 | -2.1 | -2.1 | -2.2 | -2.2 | -2.3 | -2.3 | -2.4 | -2.4 | -2.5 | -6.3 | -22.6 |

⁽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: Increase ANAO funding – 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 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.9 | -1.0 | -1.2 | -0.3 | -5.5 |
| Underlying cash balance | - | | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -0.3 | -5.2 |

⁽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 glossary².

Indicates nil.

⁽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.

^{..} Not zero but rounded to zero.

⁻ Indicates nil.

² Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office (pbo.gov.au)