



Social services – Poverty and Inequality Commission	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish a Poverty and Inequality Commission (the Commission) to eradicate poverty by creating a legislated body with paid Commissioners and a President, modelled on the Productivity Commission. Legislation will require the Government to act on recommendations by mandating public responses to advice.</p> <p>The Commission would conduct regular antipoverty reviews and create a national poverty line to measure and track progress. This will include reviewing social security payment rates and recommending minimum levels of support.</p> <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2026 and be ongoing.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The Commission would be established consistent with the provisions in the <i>Ending Poverty in Australia (Antipoverty Commission) Bill 2023</i>, including 4-12 paid Commissioners, and a paid President, and have a comparable structure to the Productivity Commission.¹</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$145.6 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.

Table 1: Social services - Poverty and Inequality Commission – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-54.0	-45.5	-46.1	-145.6
Underlying cash balance	-	-54.0	-45.5	-46.1	-145.6

(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.

¹ [Ending Poverty in Australia \(Antipoverty Commission\) Bill 2023 – Parliament of Australia](#)

Key assumptions and methodology

Consistent with the specifications, the Commission would be established with a similar structure to the Productivity Commission. This was assumed to be a President and 12 Commissioners – with salaries as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal – in addition to departmental staffing.

The Commission was assumed to have an Average Staff Level (ASL) of 187 as reported by the Productivity Commission in the 2025-26 Budget Portfolio Budget Statements. Departmental costs were calculated using the PBO's departmental cost calculator, indexed to Wage Cost Index 3 less an efficiency dividend.

Provision was made for the organisation to scale up in the first year, and for one-off implementation costs.

There would be no additional cost to Government to respond publicly to the Commission's reviews, as Government departments are already resourced for this type of activity.

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

Data sources

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

Department of the Treasury (2023) [Portfolio Budget Statements 2024–25, Treasury Portfolio](#), Department of the Treasury, accessed 19 May 2025

Department of the Treasury (2024) [Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, Treasury Portfolio](#), Department of the Treasury, accessed 16 May 2025

Productivity Commission (2023) [Annual Report 2023-24](#), Productivity Commission website, accessed 19 May 2025

Remuneration Tribunal (2024), [Remuneration Tribunal \(Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Full time Public Office\) Determination 2024](#), Remuneration Tribunal website, accessed 16 May 2025

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

Attachment A – Social services – Poverty and Inequality Commission – Financial implications

Table A1: Social services – Poverty and Inequality Commission – 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	-	-54.0	-45.5	-46.1	-46.7	-47.3	-47.9	-48.5	-49.1	-49.7	-50.4	-145.6	-485.2
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-54.0	-45.5	-46.1	-46.7	-47.3	-47.9	-48.5	-49.1	-49.7	-50.4	-145.6	-485.2

- (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: Social services – Poverty and Inequality Commission – 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	-	-1.2	-3.5	-5.6	-7.9	-10.4	-13.0	-15.7	-18.7	-21.8	-25.0	-10.3	-122.8
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.9	-2.9	-5.1	-7.4	-9.8	-12.3	-15.1	-17.9	-21.0	-24.2	-8.9	-116.6

- (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.
- Indicates nil.

³ [Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office \(pbo.gov.au\)](https://pbo.gov.au/)