



| Women policy portfolio - Women's economic security - Carer superannuation boost | |
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| Party: | Australian Greens |
| Summary of proposal: The proposal would provide \$500 per year into the superannuation account of primary carers earning under \$37,000 while caring for young children or children with disabilities. The proposal would start on 1 July 2026 and be ongoing. | |
| Additional information (based on further advice provided): <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eligibility would be limited to primary carers of one or more children who are under 6 years old or under 16 years old and have a disability requiring intensive care. | |

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$328 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact primarily reflects an increase in both administered and departmental expenses, partially offset by an increase in superannuation tax revenue.

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 are uncertain and particularly sensitive to the assumption around the eligible population. There is also uncertainty related to potential behavioural responses. To the extent that carers reduce their income to receive the payment, the cost of the proposal would increase.

Table 1: Women policy portfolio – Women's economic security – Carer superannuation boost – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | Total to 2028-29 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Fiscal balance | - | -18.1 | -159.9 | -149.6 | -327.6 |
| Underlying cash balance | - | -18.1 | -159.9 | -149.6 | -327.6 |

(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.

Key assumptions

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

- The number of primary carers would grow over the medium term consistent with population projections provided by the Treasury.

- The distribution of taxable incomes of primary carers would mirror the income distribution of tax filers as at 2022-23, as provided by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).
- Based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, Australians currently have on average 1.8 dependent children per family. This average family size would remain constant over the medium term.
- The \$500 would be paid upon assessment of an individual's tax return in the following financial year.
- Consistent with the treatment of concessional superannuation contributions made to a person's superannuation fund, the \$500 payment would be subject to 15% contributions tax in the fund.
- The rate of return on superannuation balances would average 7.5% per annum over the medium term.
- 92% of superannuation tax liability would be paid within the financial year, with the remainder being paid in the following year.

Methodology

The number of primary carers was estimated by summing the number of children under the age of 6 and the number of children with disability between the ages of 6 and 16 and then divided by the average family size. The number of primary carers was grown out over the medium term in line with the growth projections for the female population aged 16 to 44.

Primary carers estimated to earn more than \$37,000 were excluded to determine the population of eligible carers. The number of eligible carers was multiplied by the specified payment amount to arrive at the additional administered expenses.

The tax revenue on superannuation was estimated by multiplying the sum of contributions and earnings on the increased superannuation balance, by the tax rate of 15%.

Departmental expenses, including implementation costs, were estimated consistent with experience from similar reforms.

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

Data sources

The Australian Taxation Office provided de-identified personal income tax returns data for the 2022-23 income year.

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (2025) [Annual fund-level superannuation statistics](#), APRA website, accessed 13 May 2025.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022) [Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of findings - Disability tables](#), ABS website, accessed 9 May 2025.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2024) [Labour Force Status of Families - Table 5: Families by age of dependent children](#), ABS website, accessed 9 May 2025.

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

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022) [Australia's children](#), AIHW website, accessed 9 May 2025.

Australian Tax Office (2024) [Key super rates and thresholds](#), ATO website, accessed 22 May 2025.

The Treasury (2024) [2024-25 Tax Expenditures and Insights Statement](#), Treasury website, accessed 22 May 2025.

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

Attachment A – Women policy portfolio – Women's economic security – Carer superannuation boost – Financial implications

Table A1: Women policy portfolio – Women's economic security – Carer superannuation boost – 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 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Tax revenue | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Tax on superannuation contributions and earnings</i> | - | - | 25.2 | 28.5 | 29.5 | 30.6 | 31.9 | 33.1 | 34.5 | 36.0 | 37.5 | 53.7 | 286.8 |
| Total – tax revenue | - | - | 25.2 | 28.5 | 29.5 | 30.6 | 31.9 | 33.1 | 34.5 | 36.0 | 37.5 | 53.7 | 286.8 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Administered | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Superannuation contributions</i> | - | - | -171.0 | -168.0 | -163.0 | -158.0 | -154.0 | -149.0 | -144.0 | -140.0 | -135.0 | -339.0 | -1,382.0 |
| Departmental | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Australian Taxation Office</i> | - | -18.1 | -14.1 | -10.1 | -10.2 | -10.3 | -10.5 | -10.6 | -10.7 | -10.9 | -11.0 | -42.3 | -116.5 |
| Total – expenses | - | -18.1 | -185.1 | -178.1 | -173.2 | -168.3 | -164.5 | -159.6 | -154.7 | -150.9 | -146.0 | -381.3 | -1,498.5 |
| Total (excluding PDI) | - | -18.1 | -159.9 | -149.6 | -143.7 | -137.7 | -132.6 | -126.5 | -120.2 | -114.9 | -108.5 | -327.6 | -1,211.7 |

(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: Women policy portfolio – Women's economic security – Carer superannuation boost – 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 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Fiscal balance</i> | - | -0.4 | -4.4 | -11.4 | -18.4 | -25.5 | -32.7 | -40.1 | -47.5 | -55.0 | -62.6 | -16.2 | -298.0 |
| <i>Underlying cash balance</i> | - | -0.3 | -3.4 | -9.7 | -16.7 | -23.8 | -31.0 | -38.2 | -45.6 | -53.1 | -60.7 | -13.4 | -282.5 |

- (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.
- Indicates nil.

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