Artificial intelligence (AI) in education	
Party:	Australian Greens

Summary of proposal:

The proposal would provide $20 million over 4 years to:

- establish an AI Advisory Board within the Department of Education, including teachers' unions and student representatives, to oversee AI implementation in schools and ensure safeguards are implemented

- develop AI literacy and training programs for teachers, students, carers and support staff through the Advisory Board guidance

- empower students as digital citizens by including their voices in AI-related decision-making processes

- put in place safeguards on the use of AI technologies in education to protect students' privacy, safety and development.

The proposal would be non-ongoing, distribute funding evenly over 4 years and start on 1 July 2026.

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by $15 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: Artificial intelligence (AI) in education – Financial implications ($m)[a][b]

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	**Total to 2028-29**
Fiscal balance	-	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	**-15.0**
Underlying cash balance	-	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	**-15.0**

(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 and methodology

The proposal is capped at a fixed amount, evenly distributed over 4 years from the commencement date. Departmental expenses are as specified. We assume that no funds allocated to a given year are left unspent.

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

Data sources

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

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

Attachment A – Artificial intelligence (AI) in education – Financial implications

Table A1: Artificial intelligence (AI) in education – 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	-	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-15.0	-20.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	-5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-15.0	-20.0

(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: Artificial intelligence (AI) in education – 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	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.0	-8.4
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-0.9	-8.0

(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.[2]

(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.

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