



Artist-in-residence program	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would put an artist in residence in every public school and public library in Australia. This would provide meaningful employment for artists, particularly new and emerging artists, and provide greater opportunity for students to engage with the arts. This project is focused on job creation, community development and building an enhanced appreciation for the creative industries.</p> <p>The proposal would start from 1 July 2026.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>Artists in residence would be paid at the rate of the former JobKeeper program, indexed by CPI, for up to 2 days a school term for up to one year.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$38.1 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact is driven by an increase in administered expenses to cover salary and superannuation costs for artists in residence. Departmental costs would not be expected to be material.

The estimated financial implications of the costing are sensitive to the take-up rate of the artist in residence positions made available under the policy. Although the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has assumed for the purposes of this costing that all available positions would be taken up, the level of remuneration offered, the remoteness of some schools and libraries and several other factors make this assumption uncertain.

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: Artist-in-residence program – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-12.4	-12.7	-13.0	-38.1
Underlying cash balance	-	-12.4	-12.7	-13.0	-38.1

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

- The daily rate of payment would reflect the original JobKeeper payment's daily rate equivalent, escalated in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
 - The payment was estimated to be \$152.26 per day at 1 July 2026.
- The total number of public schools and public libraries would be constant over the medium term.
- All available positions would be filled, with 8 placement days taken up by artists for each public school and public library over each financial year.
- State and territory governments would be responsible for administering the program on an ongoing basis, with no departmental costs from the Australian Government.

Methodology

The daily rate of payment, calculated as per *Key assumptions*, was multiplied by the total number of days worked per financial year under the proposal to yield the annual salary cost. To account for superannuation expenses, this cost was increased by 15.4%, yielding the total cost of the proposal per financial year.

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

Data sources

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (2025), [School search](#), Australian Schools List, accessed 13 May 2025.

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

Fair Work Ombudsman (2024) [Former JobKeeper scheme overview](#), JobKeeper payments, accessed 13 May 2025.

National Library of Australia (2025), ['Find a Library' – Standard search](#), National Library of Australia, accessed 13 May 2025.

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

Attachment A – Artist-in-residence program – Financial implications

Table A1: Artist-in-residence program – 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													
Administered													
<i>Artists in residence</i>	-	-12.4	-12.7	-13.0	-13.3	-13.7	-14.0	-14.4	-14.7	-15.1	-15.5	-38.1	-138.8
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-12.4	-12.7	-13.0	-13.3	-13.7	-14.0	-14.4	-14.7	-15.1	-15.5	-38.1	-138.8

- (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: Artist-in-residence program – 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	-	-0.3	-0.8	-1.4	-2.1	-2.8	-3.5	-4.3	-5.2	-6.1	-7.1	-2.5	-33.6
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.2	-0.7	-1.3	-1.9	-2.6	-3.4	-4.1	-5.0	-5.9	-6.8	-2.2	-31.9

- (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/)