



Justice – protect fundamental rights	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• legislate a National Human Rights Act based on the Parliament’s Human Rights Committee model to protect civil, political, environmental, and social rights such as the right to life, education, and a safe environment• quadruple funding for the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), ensuring it can advocate for human rights across all areas of life• remove the need for Human Rights Commissioners to seek external funding by fully funding each commissioner equitably, allowing them to focus on their core work without corporate pressures• ensure national protection for the right to protest by codifying international obligations on free expression and assembly and invalidating inconsistent state laws. <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2026.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$262.8 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: Justice – protect fundamental rights – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-87.4	-87.5	-87.9	-262.8
Underlying cash balance	-	-87.4	-87.5	-87.9	-262.8

(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.

Methodology and key assumptions

This proposal uses the existing baseline in the forward estimates for AHRC funding (\$28.9 million in 2025-26). It is assumed that this resourcing would continue over the medium term, uplifted by Wage Cost Index 3 less an efficiency dividend. Departmental expenses are calculated by quadrupling this baseline funding and calculating the difference between this calculated value and the resourcing baseline to identify the expected change in the fiscal and underlying cash balance. We assume that no funds allocated to a given year are left unspent.

The proposal includes the codifying of international obligations and the invalidation of inconsistent state laws. It is assumed that no additional resources are required for this work, and that the costs to complete this work would be absorbed by the additional resourcing provided to the AHRC.

The legislating of a National Human Rights Act would not have an impact on the fiscal and underlying cash balances as Australian Government departments are resourced to draft legislation in the course of their usual activities. Furthermore, the proposed legislation would not result in any direct financial implications for the Australian Government.

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

Data sources

Commonwealth of Australia, 2025, *Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26: Australian Human Rights Commission*, Canberra, Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 16 May 2025.

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

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

Attachment A – Justice – protect fundamental rights – Financial implications

Table A1: Justice – protect fundamental rights – 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
Total – departmental	-	-87.4	-87.5	-87.9	-89.0	-90.1	-91.3	-92.4	-93.6	-94.8	-96.0	-262.8	-910.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-87.4	-87.5	-87.9	-89.0	-90.1	-91.3	-92.4	-93.6	-94.8	-96.0	-262.8	-910.0

(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: Justice – protect fundamental rights – 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	-	-1.9	-5.9	-10.0	-14.4	-19.0	-24.0	-29.2	-34.7	-40.6	-46.8	-17.8	-226.5
Underlying cash balance	-	-1.5	-4.9	-9.0	-13.3	-17.9	-22.7	-27.9	-33.3	-39.1	-45.2	-15.4	-214.8

(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)