

ECR-2025-3873

Party: Australian Greens Australian Greens

Summary of proposal:

The proposal aims to invest in accessible, inclusive healthcare for LGBTIQA+ Australians work to eliminate discriminatory practices in our health and social services systems. The proposal would:

- **component 1:** provide \$9 million in funding to remove discriminatory barriers to blood donations.
 - This component would provide \$1 million per year for 4 years to the Therapeutic Goods
 Administration and Lifeblood Australia, and an additional \$5 million would be provided to
 Lifeblood to administer new systems if required.
- component 2: this component would include providing:
 - \$300 million over 4 years to support and fully implement the National LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan to ensure inclusive and comprehensive health services and fund LGBTIQA+ community-controlled health organisations.
 - \$300 million for LGBTIQA+-specific mental health programs and services.

The proposal would start on 1 July 2026.

Additional information (based on further advice provided):

Component 2 is comprised of the following elements:

- Element A: support the national LGBTIQA+ health and wellbeing action plan to ensure access to holistic and comprehensive health services.
- Element B: provide \$2.5 million of funding per year for an agreement with states and territories to improve training for medical professionals, including through national standards.
- Element C: provide \$70 million grants funding over 4 years for LGBTIQA+ community-controlled health organisations.
- Element D: provide \$200 million of capped funding over 4 years to implement the remaining priorities in the LGBTIQA+ Health Alliance policy priorities, including crisis intervention for mental health and suicide prevention, support for health and wellbeing for LGBTIQA+ elders, and increased participation for people with disability.
- Element E: provide \$2.5 million of funding per year for health, welfare and allied professionals to undertake professional development training regarding LGBTIQA+ inclusion.
- Element F: create an MBS item so doctors can provide patients with an HIV self-test they can use at home between clinical visits.

- Element G: establish minimum service levels and a national partnership agreement with states and territories for community-led education and services, surveillance and public sexual health care.
- Element H: provide \$53 million of capped funding per year to address remaining components of the Agenda.

Funding for ongoing capped annual expenses would be indexed by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$456 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in administered and 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.

Sensitivities

The financial implications of the proposal are sensitive to a number of factors. In particular:

- Component 2 Element A is sensitive to the composition of the team within the Department of Health and Aged Care to support the action plan.
- Component 2 Element G is sensitive to costs relating to the negotiations between states and territories and the Australian Government.

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: LGBTIQA+ – Health and social services – National LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-153.7	-150.5	-152.2	-456.4
Underlying cash balance	-	-153.7	-150.5	-152.2	-456.4

⁽a) A positive number represents an increase in the relevant budget balance; a negative number represents a decrease.

Key assumptions and methodology

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

Component 1

• The additional funding of \$5 million for Lifeblood to administer new systems would be required and would be fully allocated to the first year of the proposal.

⁽b) PDI impacts are not included in the totals.

⁻ Indicates nil.

Component 2 Element A

- Ongoing funding would be provided to the Department of Health and Aged Care for a team to provide continued support for the LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing 10-year National Action Plan Expert Advisory Group (EAG).
- The support team would consist of 0.5 x EL2, 1 x EL1, 1 x APS6 and 1 x APS5.

Component 2 Element F

- The administered cost of the new MBS item would be ongoing.
- The indexation of the schedule fee of the new MBS item would be consistent with current MBS indexation arrangements.
- The cost of a self-test would be equal to the cost of a rapid test.
 - Self-tests would cost \$27.66 each in 2026-27, informed by an estimate of the cost of a rapid test in a 2015 Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) report¹ grown by Wage Cost Index 5 (WCI5).

Component 2 Element G

 All required legislation and agreements giving effect to this element would be passed before the implementation of the policy.

Methodology

Component 2 Element A

The departmental costs were calculated using the PBO's departmental cost calculator.

Component 2 Element F

The financial impacts of this element were calculated by taking the estimated cost of a rapid HIV
test as outlined in *Key assumptions* and multiplying it by the estimated number of tests required
per year (approximately 120,000 tests per year, as also outlined in the MSAC report), indexed each
year to WCI5.

Component 2 Element G

Administered costs were based on the costs of a similar preventative health program, the 2021-22
Budget measure Expansion of the BreastScreen Australia program.² Departmental costs were
estimated based on the expense ratio for preventative health programs in the Department of
Health and Aged Care Portfolio Budget Statement.

¹ Medical Services Advisory Committee (2015) <u>1391 – Rapid point of care combined Antigen/Antibody HIV test to aid in the diagnosis of HIV infection</u>, Australian Government, accessed 16 May 2025.

² Budget 2021-22 (2021). \$67.6 million over 4 years from 2021-22 to continue the existing BreastScreen Australia Expansion National Partnership Agreement, which supports women aged 70 to 74 to undertake mammograms to screen for breast cancer. <u>Budget Paper No. 2</u>, Commonwealth of Australia, accessed 19 May 2025.

Capped components (Component 1 and Component 2 Elements B, C, D, E and H)

• Funding for each capped component was set at the annual fixed amount or spread evenly across the specified period. Ongoing components were then indexed by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

All components

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.³

Data sources

Commonwealth of Australia (2023) 2022-23 October Budget, Commonwealth of Australia.

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

Department of Health (2021) <u>Portfolio Budget Statements 2021-22</u>, Australian Government, accessed 16 May 2025.

Departmental expenses were informed by similar measures in the Commonwealth budgets from 2015-16 to 2021-22.

Medical Services Advisory Committee (2015) <u>1391 – Rapid point of care combined Antigen/Antibody</u> <u>HIV test to aid in the diagnosis of HIV infection</u>, accessed 16 May 2025.

³ https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules

Attachment A – LGBTIQA+ – Health and social services – National LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan – Financial implications

Table 01: LGBTIQA+ - Health and social services - National LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan - 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													
Component 1	-	-6.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-8.0	-9.0
Component 2 Element B	-	-2.5	-2.6	-2.6	-2.7	-2.8	-2.8	-2.9	-3.0	-3.0	-3.1	-7.7	-28.0
Component 2 Element C	-	-17.5	-17.5	-17.5	-17.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-52.5	-70.0
Component 2 Element D	-	-50.0	-50.0	-50.0	-50.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-150.0	-200.0
Component 2 Element E	-	-2.5	-2.6	-2.6	-2.7	-2.8	-2.8	-2.9	-3.0	-3.0	-3.1	-7.7	-28.0
Component 2 Element F	-	-3.7	-3.8	-3.9	-4.0	-4.1	-4.2	-4.3	-4.4	-4.5	-4.6	-11.4	-41.5
Component 2 Element G	-	-16.6	-16.8	-17.0	-17.3	-17.5	-17.7	-17.9	-18.2	-18.4	-18.6	-50.4	-176.0
Component 2 Element H	-	-53.0	-54.3	-55.6	-57.0	-58.4	-59.9	-61.4	-62.9	-64.5	-66.1	-162.9	-593.1
Total – administered	-	-151.8	-148.6	-150.2	-152.2	-85.6	-87.4	-89.4	-91.5	-93.4	-95.5	-450.6	-1,145.6
Departmental													
Component 2 Element A	-	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-1.8	-6.6
Component 2 Element G	-	-1.3	-1.3	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-4.0	-14.1
Total – departmental	-	-1.9	-1.9	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.2	-2.2	-2.2	-5.8	-20.7
Total – expenses	-	-153.7	-150.5	-152.2	-154.2	-87.7	-89.5	-91.5	-93.7	-95.6	-97.7	-456.4	-1,166.3
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-153.7	-150.5	-152.2	-154.2	-87.7	-89.5	-91.5	-93.7	-95.6	-97.7	-456.4	-1,166.3

⁽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: LGBTIQA+ – Health and social services – National LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan – 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	-	-3.4	-10.3	-17.4	-25.0	-31.5	-36.9	-42.6	-48.8	-55.3	-62.2	-31.1	-333.4
Underlying cash balance	-	-2.6	-8.6	-15.7	-23.1	-29.9	-35.6	-41.2	-47.2	-53. <i>7</i>	-60.5	-26.9	-318.1

- (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.⁴
- (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.

⁴ Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office (pbo.gov.au)