



Remove the exceptional circumstances test required for NACC public hearings	
Party:	Independent Member for Indi
Summary of proposal: The proposal would remove the exceptional circumstances test for public hearings of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). The proposal would be ongoing and start from 1 July 2025.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$0.4 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.

Table 1: Remove the exceptional circumstances test required for NACC public hearings – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4
Underlying cash balance	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4

(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.

Key assumptions and methodology

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has assumed that the relevant legislative changes to give effect to the proposal would be in place by the commencement date. There would be no additional funding required to undertake the policy work and implement the proposed legislative changes, as departments are already resourced for this activity as part of their normal operations.

The NACC would be provided additional fixed and non-indexed funding of \$100,000 per annum to support public hearings that may arise as a result of removal of the exceptional circumstances test. Funding would be provided on an ongoing basis from the commencement date.

All funding under the proposal is departmental. We assume that no funds allocated to a given year would be 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.

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

Attachment A – Remove the exceptional circumstances test required for NACC public hearings – Financial implications

Table A1: Remove the exceptional circumstances test required for NACC public hearings – 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	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-1.1
Total (excluding PDI)	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-1.1

(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.

Table A2: Remove the exceptional circumstances test required for NACC public hearings – 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	-0.1	..	-0.2
Underlying cash balance	-0.1	-0.1	..	-0.2

(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.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

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