



Establish an independent Whistleblower Protection Authority	
Party:	Independent Member for Indi
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish a new independent, fully resourced Whistleblower Protection Authority.</p> <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start from 1 July 2025.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The proposed Whistleblower Protection Authority would include a Commissioner (equivalent tenure/protections to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)), 2 part-time deputy commissioners and an advisory council.</p> <p>The Whistleblower Protection Authority would be a standalone statutory agency with 80 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff.</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$99.5 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: Establish an independent Whistleblower Protection Authority – Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-35.5	-21.0	-21.3	-21.7	-99.5
Underlying cash balance	-35.5	-21.0	-21.3	-21.7	-99.5

(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

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has made the following assumptions in costing this proposal.

- The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners would be remunerated in line with those of the NACC, indexed to Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE). The 2 part-time Deputy Commissioners would equate to one FTE.

- The Advisory Committee would comprise of a Chair and 7 other members, sit quarterly and be remunerated on a per day basis in line with similar advisory committees. Remuneration would be indexed to AWOTE.
- The Whistleblower Protection Authority would reach 80% of the specified staffing level within the first year of operation and 100% within the second year.
- Supplier expenses would be around 58% of staffing expenses, in line with the NACC.
- Capital funding would be required to establish the Whistleblower Protection Authority in 2025-26.
  - The funding would be around a third of that for the establishment of the NACC, reflecting the relative sizes of the entities' workforces.

## Methodology

Staffing expenses were estimated using the PBO's Departmental cost calculator.

Expenses for the Commissioners, Advisory Council, suppliers and capital establishment were estimated as per *Key assumptions*.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.<sup>1</sup>

## Data sources

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

National Anti-Corruption Commission (2024) [2023-24 Annual Report](#), National Anti-Corruption Commission website, accessed 26 May 2025.

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

## Attachment A – Establish an independent Whistleblower Protection Authority – Financial implications

**Table A1: Establish an independent Whistleblower Protection Authority – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)</sup>**

	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
<b>Expenses</b>													
<b>Departmental</b>													
<i>Commissioners and advisory council</i>	-1.6	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-6.7	-21.0
<i>Staffing</i>	-9.7	-12.3	-12.4	-12.6	-12.8	-12.9	-13.1	-13.3	-13.4	-13.6	-13.8	-47.0	-139.9
<i>Suppliers</i>	-5.6	-7.1	-7.2	-7.3	-7.4	-7.5	-7.6	-7.7	-7.8	-7.9	-8.0	-27.2	-81.1
<i>Capital establishment</i>	-18.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-18.6	-18.6
<b>Total – departmental</b>	<b>-35.5</b>	<b>-21.0</b>	<b>-21.3</b>	<b>-21.7</b>	<b>-22.0</b>	<b>-22.3</b>	<b>-22.7</b>	<b>-23.0</b>	<b>-23.3</b>	<b>-23.7</b>	<b>-24.1</b>	<b>-99.5</b>	<b>-260.6</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>-35.5</b>	<b>-21.0</b>	<b>-21.3</b>	<b>-21.7</b>	<b>-22.0</b>	<b>-22.3</b>	<b>-22.7</b>	<b>-23.0</b>	<b>-23.3</b>	<b>-23.7</b>	<b>-24.1</b>	<b>-99.5</b>	<b>-260.6</b>

(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: Establish an independent Whistleblower Protection Authority – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	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
<b>Fiscal balance</b>	-0.8	-2.1	-3.1	-4.2	-5.3	-6.6	-7.9	-9.2	-10.7	-12.3	-13.9	-10.2	-76.1
<b>Underlying cash balance</b>	-0.6	-1.8	-2.8	-3.9	-5.1	-6.3	-7.5	-8.9	-10.3	-11.9	-13.5	-9.1	-72.6

(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<sup>2</sup>.

(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.

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