



Annualisation of General Social Survey for Measuring what Matters - reverse	
Party:	The Coalition
Summary of proposal: The proposal would reverse the decision to add 'Measuring what Matters' to the annual General Social Survey as set out in the 2024-25 Budget measure, <i>ABS – delivering Census and modernising operations</i> . ¹ The policy would start on 1 July 2025 and would be ongoing.	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to increase the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$14.2 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects a decrease in administered expenses due to the reversal of funding for additional data collection to support the production of 'Measuring what Matters'.

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: Annualisation of General Social Survey for Measuring what Matters - reverse – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	14.2
Underlying cash balance	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	14.2

(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.

Methodology and Key assumptions

The estimated savings are the reverse of the provision to deliver additional data in the annual General Social Survey to support the production of 'Measuring what Matters'. The estimate was provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The PBO has assumed that all of the allocated funding would be available to be returned as a saving to the consolidated revenue fund.

¹ *ABS – delivering Census and modernising operations measure*: including \$57.9 million over 6 years from 2023–24 (and \$3.8 million per year ongoing from 2029–30) to continue to modernise legacy systems and operations for the Labour Force survey and Business Characteristics dataset, and to deliver an enhanced annual General Social Survey to support Measuring What Matters, page 177, 2024-25 [Budget Paper No.2](#)

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.²

Data sources

The Australian Bureau of Statistics provided annual cost estimates to deliver the "*enhanced annual General Social Survey to support Measuring What Matters*" component of the 2024-25 Budget measure *ABS – delivering Census and modernising operations*, as at 13 November 2024.

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

Commonwealth of Australia (2024) *2024-25 Budget*, Commonwealth of Australia.

² <https://www.pbo.gov.au/for-parliamentarians/how-we-analyse/pbo-rounding-rules>

Attachment A – Annualisation of General Social Survey for Measuring what Matters - reverse – Financial implications

Table A1: Annualisation of General Social Survey for Measuring what Matters - reverse – 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>Annualisation of General Social Survey</i>	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	14.2	42.2
Total (excluding PDI)	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	14.2	42.2

(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: Annualisation of General Social Survey for Measuring what Matters - reverse – 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	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	1.3	11.5
Underlying cash balance	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.1	1.2	10.9

- (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 glossary.³
- (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.

³ [Online budget glossary – Parliamentary Budget Office \(pbo.gov.au\)](https://pbo.gov.au)