



Establish an emergency humanitarian visa	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish a new Urgent Humanitarian Response Visa category to respond to urgent humanitarian crises. This is intended to allow for further humanitarian intake and allow the option of returning post-crisis or permanency in Australia.</p> <p>The proposal would start on 1 July 2025.</p>	
<p>Additional specifications (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>This proposal would provide a visa assessment process designed to respond to crises and allow people access to social support, Medicare, work rights and study rights when they arrive in Australia.</p> <p>A cap of 20,000 visas per year would be made available, when necessary (when a humanitarian crisis occurs), to provide protection for people fleeing conflict.</p> <p>There would be no visa application charge associated with the visa.</p> <p>The visa would have a rolling renewal every 3 years as necessary and allow people to apply for existing permanent visas. While these visas would have ongoing renewal, they are temporary, allowing people to return to a country if the crisis is resolved.</p> <p>This visa would be in addition to the permanent humanitarian program.</p> <p>Activation of the visa would be at the discretion of the government of the day.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$0.1 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in departmental expenses to prepare the ICT system ready to respond to activating the visa for a specified humanitarian crisis.

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 activation of the proposed Urgent Humanitarian Response Visa system would be highly uncertain and dependent on the occurrence of global humanitarian crises and their severity, the potential number of applicants and costs of providing services to the successful applicants. As such, the associated administrative and departmental costs are regarded as contingent in nature and therefore not included in this costing.

Table 1: Establish an emergency humanitarian visa – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

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

(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.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

Key assumptions

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

- There would be additional departmental costs to cover the start-up of the new visa stream.
- Until the visa stream is activated, there would be no direct costs associated with the issuance of visas and services to be provided to the potential visa applicants and holders.
 - The costs associated with enacting the visa stream would operate similar to a contingent liability.¹ The driver to enact the new visa – an international conflict or humanitarian crisis where Australia wishes to offer a humanitarian visa with a pathway to permanency – is difficult to predict.

Methodology

Additional departmental costs were included to reflect the start-up cost of the new visa stream.

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

Data sources

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

¹ There are a range of factors that may influence the actual budget outcome in future years, including matters that are not included in the fiscal forecasts because of uncertainty about their timing, magnitude or likelihood, and the realisation of contingent liabilities or assets. Page 30, PEFO 2025

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

Attachment A – Establish an emergency humanitarian visa – Financial implications

Table A1: Establish an emergency humanitarian visa – Fiscal and underling 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
Expenses													
Total - departmental	-0.1	-0.3
Total (excluding PDI)	-0.1	-0.3

(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.

(b) This costing includes a contingent aspect.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

Table A2: Establish an emergency humanitarian visa – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)(c)}

	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
Underlying cash balance	-0.1

(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 glossary³.

(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.

(c) This costing includes a contingent aspect.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

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