



Maximum 30 day waiting period for home care	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would reduce home care wait times to 30 days, with the following 2 components:</p> <p>Component 1: Uncap the total number of Home Care Packages (HCP).</p> <p>Component 2: Fund Aged Care Assessment Teams to process applications within 30 days.</p> <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start on 1 July 2026.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>Funding for Component 2 would be capped at \$7 million per year and not indexed.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$21.3 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.

From 1 July 2025, the Support at Home program will replace the existing HCP Program. Given the start date of this commitment is 1 July 2026, the Support at Home program will supersede the HCP program before this commitment takes effect. Support at Home is not strictly an uncapped program in that it is limited by the level of funding which has been agreed by Government. However, as the funding provisioned is based on meeting the forecast level of demand for in-home aged care services, the estimated costs of uncapping home care packages would be identical to the estimates already agreed in the baseline. Therefore, the financial implications of Component 1 are nil.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has not made any assessment as to whether the specified funding for Component 2 would be sufficient to meet the objectives of the proposal.

Table 1: Maximum 30 day waiting period for home care – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-21.3
Underlying cash balance	-	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-21.3

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Key assumptions and methodology

Component 2 is capped at a fixed amount, provided annually from the commencement date as specified. Departmental expenses were assumed to be 1% of the administered expenses and are in addition to the capped funding amount. Administered expenses are as specified in the proposal and we assume that no funds allocated to a given year are 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 – Maximum 30 day waiting period for home care – Financial implications

Table A1: Maximum 30 day waiting period for home care – 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													
Uncap Home Care Packages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aged Care Assessment Teams	-	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-7.0	-21.0	-70.0
Departmental													
Aged Care Assessment Teams	-	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-1.0
Total – expenses	-	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-21.3	-71.0
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-7.1	-21.3	-71.0

(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: Maximum 30 day waiting period for home care – 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	-	-0.2	-0.5	-0.8	-1.2	-1.5	-1.9	-2.3	-2.7	-3.2	-3.7	-1.5	-18.0
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-1.1	-1.4	-1.8	-2.2	-2.6	-3.1	-3.5	-1.2	-16.9

(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 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.

- Indicates nil.

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