



Creation of a federal Ministry for Disability	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would establish a Minister for Disability and a Department of Disability Services, to prioritise disability rights and intersectional issues at the federal level.</p> <p>The proposal would be ongoing and start from 1 July 2026.</p>	
<p>Additional information (based on further advice provided):</p> <p>The Minister for Disability would have the staffing arrangements of a Cabinet-level minister.</p> <p>The Department of Disability Services would be responsible for coordinating disability services. It would oversee the National Disability Insurance Agency and NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission, as well as the implementation of recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission and all disability services currently provided through the Department of Social Services.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$22 million over the 2025-26 Budget forward estimates period (see Table 1). This impact reflects an increase in departmental expenses associated with the creation of a new senior Minister and policy department.

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: Creation of a federal Ministry for Disability – Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total to 2028-29
Fiscal balance	-	-11.0	-5.5	-5.6	-22.1
Underlying cash balance	-	-11.0	-5.5	-5.6	-22.1

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Key assumptions

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

- In addition to the newly created Cabinet position for a Minister for Disability, a shadow ministerial position would also be created.
 - Salaries for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff would grow consistent with Wage Cost Index 3 (WCI-3).
 - The Minister for Disability would receive an allowance of 72.5% of base salary.
 - The Shadow Minister would receive an allowance of 25% of base salary.
- Staff from the disability function of the Department of Social Services (DSS) would transfer to the Department of Disability Services as a Machinery of Government (MoG) change. Costs associated with the transfer of staff would be absorbed within the existing resources of DSS.
 - Any expenses incurred by other agencies as a result of the MoG would be met within existing agency resources.
- One-off set up costs for the Department of Disability Services associated with ICT and property functions would be required in 2026-27, to enable the Department to operate independently.
 - Additional ongoing funding would be required for a new complement of senior executive staff including a new Secretary, one SES Band 3, 2 x SES Band 2 and 2 x SES Band 1.

Methodology

Data provided by the Department of the House of Representatives and the Department of the Senate was used in conjunction with publicly available data on parliamentarians and members of parliament staff remuneration entitlements to create a cost profile of an office each for a Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet member.

- Salaries, allowances, superannuation entitlements, and all other relevant payments provided to parliamentarians and their staff were projected across the costing period under the assumed growth rate outlined in *Key assumptions*.

Provision was made for one-off set up costs in 2026-27 to establish the Department of Disability Services, as well as ongoing provision for a new executive function, as per *Key assumptions*. The PBO's departmental calculator was used to determine the costs associated with the executive function.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules.¹

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

Data sources

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

Department of Finance (2024), [*Remuneration Tribunal \(Members of Parliament\) Determination 2024*](#), accessed 24 May 2025.

The Department of the House of Representatives provided 2023-24 data on wages and allowances of members of the House of Representatives.

The Department of the Senate provided 2023-24 data on wages and allowances of members of the House of the Senate.

Attachment A – Creation of a federal Ministry for Disability – Financial implications

Table A1: Creation of a federal Ministry for Disability – 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													
Departmental													
<i>Department of Disability Services – set up</i>	-	-5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-5.5	-5.5
<i>Department of Disability Services – executive</i>	-	-2.9	-2.9	-2.9	-3.0	-3.0	-3.1	-3.1	-3.2	-3.2	-3.3	-8.7	-30.6
<i>Minister for Disability</i>	-	-2.4	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6	-2.6	-2.7	-2.7	-2.8	-2.9	-2.9	-7.3	-26.5
<i>Shadow Minister for Disability</i>	-	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-2.5
Total – departmental	-	-11.0	-5.5	-5.6	-5.8	-5.8	-6.1	-6.1	-6.3	-6.4	-6.5	-22.1	-65.1
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-11.0	-5.5	-5.6	-5.8	-5.8	-6.1	-6.1	-6.3	-6.4	-6.5	-22.1	-65.1

(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.

- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Creation of a federal Ministry for Disability – 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	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.2	-2.6	-3.0	-3.4	-1.7	-17.4
Underlying cash balance	-	-0.2	-0.5	-0.8	-1.1	-1.4	-1.8	-2.1	-2.5	-2.9	-3.3	-1.5	-16.6

(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 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/online-budget-glossary)