

Guide to services of the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)

What is the Parliamentary Budget Office?

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) is an independent and non-partisan department of the Parliament. The purpose of the PBO is to inform parliament by providing costings of policy proposals and analysis of the Budget.

We do this in three main ways:

1. by responding to requests made by Senators and Members for **costings of policy proposals** or for analysis of matters relating to the budget
2. by publishing a **report** after every election that provides transparency around the fiscal impact of the election commitments of major parties, and minor parties and independents that choose to be included
3. by conducting and publishing **research** that enhances the public understanding of the budget and fiscal policy settings.

How can we help you?

Any Senator or Member can request a costing from the PBO on a policy proposal. Requests can be confidential if made outside of the caretaker period.

Costings and analysis services are designed to support you to participate in a more informed policy debate.

We can't give you direct policy advice, but we can assist by discussing how different policy options could generate different impacts.



Costings of policy proposals

A costing is an assessment of the financial impact of a proposed policy change on the Commonwealth Government budget.



Budget analysis

A budget analysis assists in evaluating existing policies, or what affects a policy change would have on the budget or on different groups of people.



How to get in touch with the PBO?



Visit us:

The PBO is located in West Block and at the Parliament House, Senate Wing (S1.106).



Call us: 02 6277 9500



Email us: pbo@pbo.gov.au



For further information visit: pbo.gov.au



Stay up to date:

Follow the PBO on (X) Twitter: [@PBO_AU](https://twitter.com/PBO_AU)



PBO publications

We publish self-initiated work exploring government finances, budget information and fiscal issues. You can find these on the [Publications page](#) on our website.



Budget Explainers

Budget Explainers are short non-technical pieces focused on a particular area of the budget.

They include a guide to navigating the Commonwealth Government budget papers and a handy [online budget glossary](#).

We also publish different chart packs following each budget and mid-year economic fiscal outlook (MYEFO).



Election Commitments Report

Following each general election, we produce a report showing the financial implications of election commitments made by each of the major parties, and of minor parties and independent members that choose to be included.

Confidentiality

A request and the response can be kept confidential. We won't make public any information unless you release it or authorise us to publish it on our website.

This is different during a caretaker period before a general election when any costings requested during this period must be made public.

How to request a costing

We recommend you talk to the PBO before you submit a formal request – it can help shape your request and ensure the details are sufficiently specified.

When you're ready, the requesting Senator or Member signs a formal request and sends it to the PBO.

Learn more about the process on our website's [For parliamentarians page](#).