



Q4: 1 April 2026 – 30 June 2026

Parliamentary Budget Office Activity report

Contents

Our activities in detail	3
Independent Review of the PBO	3
Parliamentarian requests.....	3
Self-initiated program	9
External engagement	9
Demand for PBO Self-Initiated products	10
Media Mentions	13
People and systems.....	14
Our Performance Measures	15
Attachment A: Self-initiated program.....	18
Attachment B: Explanatory notes for Table 2.....	19

At a glance

This report provides an update on Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) activities since the publication of the previous quarterly Activity Report. Key highlights include:

- Demand for our costing and analytical services continues to be strong. In the 3 months to 30 June 2026 (quarter 4 of 2025-26), we received 204 request options and completed 217 – this is an increase from 120 and 118 respectively compared to the previous quarter (Table 2). Our time to deliver decreased from a median of 27 working days to 23 days (Figure 3).
- Publishing our suite of products related to the 2026-27 Budget, including a *Guide to the 2026-27 Budget*, the *2026-27 Budget Snapshot*, and updates to *Historical Fiscal Data* and *Historical Budget Forecasts and Measures*, and expanded our self-initiated program with the release of [*Costing Concepts*](#) and [*Policy Costing Analyses*](#).

Considering the recommendations of the 2025-26 *Independent post-election review of the PBO* and preparing our formal response for the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, expected by mid-September.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES BY FUNCTION

JULY 2025 TO JUNE 2026

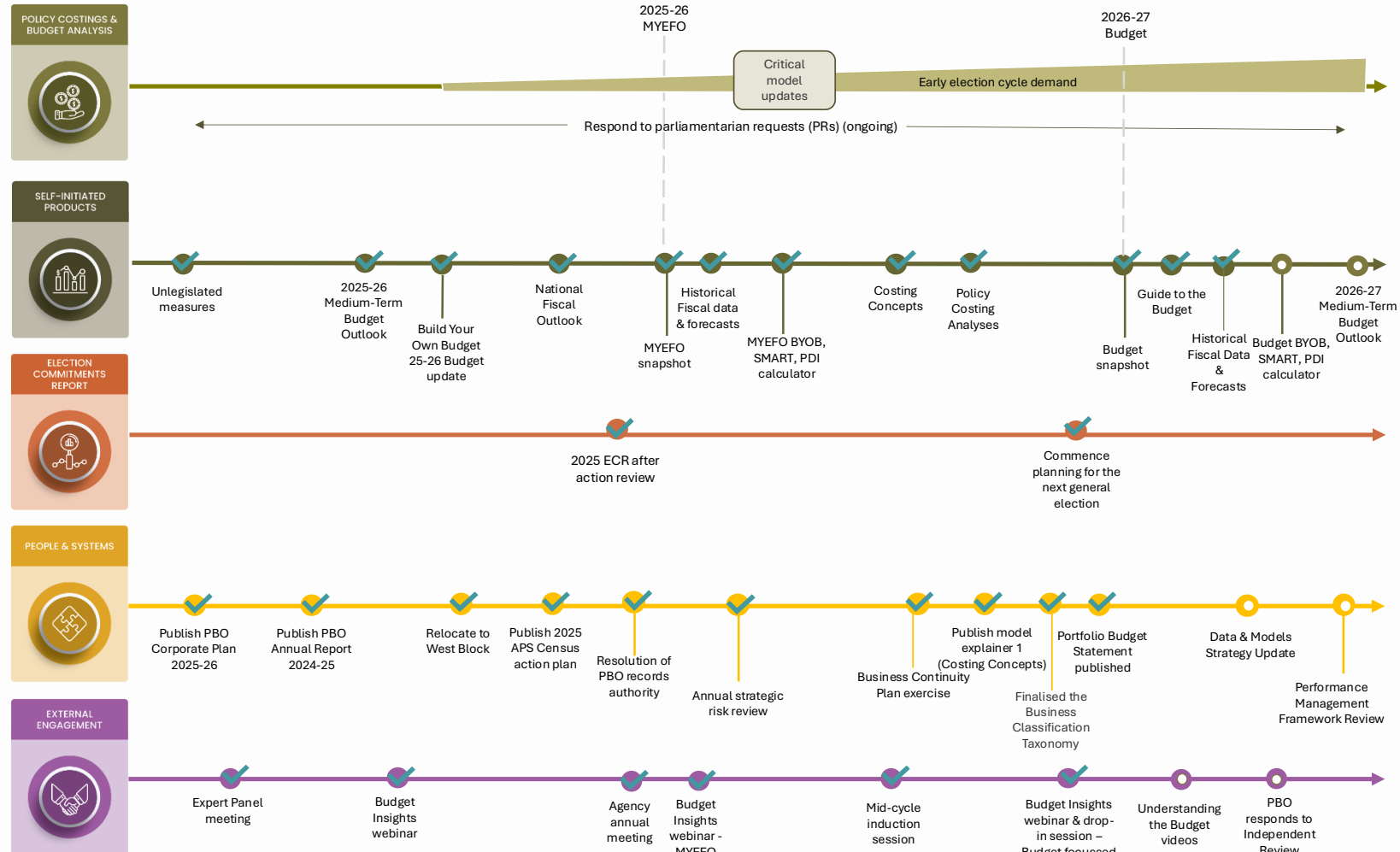


Parliamentary
Budget Office

LEGEND

- Activity complete
- Activity commenced

July to December 2025



Our activities in detail

This report provides an update on our key activities since our previous Activity report (published 11 May 2026) with information up to 30 June 2026. It also provides information on how we are delivering against the priorities in our [Corporate plan](#). More information is in our [Annual report](#) and previous [Activity reports](#).

Independent Review of the PBO

The 2025-26 [Independent post-election review of the PBO](#), conducted by Dr Martin Parkinson AC PSM, was tabled in both houses of Parliament on 12 March 2026. The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA), which provides oversight of the PBO, had exercised their option to commission the Review on 4 September 2025.

The purpose of the Review was to examine and provide a report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the PBO in executing its purpose to inform the parliament by providing independent and non-partisan analysis of the budget cycle, fiscal policy and the financial implications of proposals.

The Review considered that the PBO is performing very well. The Review noted that even high performing institutions have opportunities to improve. The Review's recommendations will be central to further enhancing our support of the Parliament over the coming years, and the PBO's response to them will be implementing throughout 2026-27. The PBO is on track to provide a formal response to the JCPAA by mid-September 2026.

Parliamentarian requests

The PBO continued to experience strong demand for costing and budget analysis services for this period of the parliamentary cycle (see Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2). Quarter 4 of 2025-26 has shown continued demand for parliamentarian request services for the fourth quarter post-election, with 122 requests received (Table 1). The 326 requests received since the 2025 election is 20% higher than for the first 4 quarters following the 2022 election.

While there are typically fewer requests received during the first year after a general election, the requests are often on new issues and are more complex than those received closer to the election, requiring the construction of new models and approaches.

Table 1: Costing and budget analysis request performance

	20-21 total	21-22 total	22-23 total	23-24 total	24-25 total	25-26 Q1	25-26 Q2	25-26 Q3	25-26 Q4	25-26 total
Requests received ^(a)	421	1,488	271	856	1,772	64	69	71	122	326
Requests completed ^(a)	272	1,021	243	722	1,709	53	67	49	88	257
Requests withdrawn ^(b)	48	548	11	27	180	4	5	5	3	17

a) Costings prepared for *Election Commitments Reports* (ECR) are included in these counts as follows: 316 in the 2022 ECR and 601 in the 2025 ECR.

b) In election years (2021-22 and 2024-25), most of these requests were automatically withdrawn due to the expiration of the parliament in accordance with the PBO's legislative mandate which does not allow for requests to carry over between parliaments. In 2022, 415 withdrawn requests related to the expiration of the parliament, and 112 in 2025.

Figure 1: Number of completed request options from parliamentarians

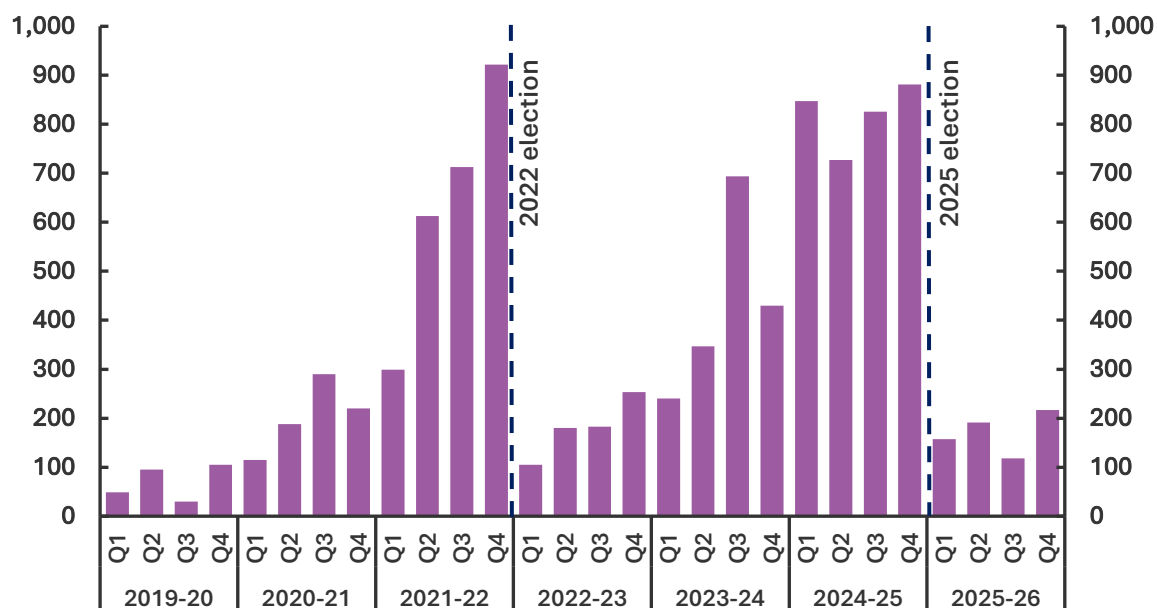
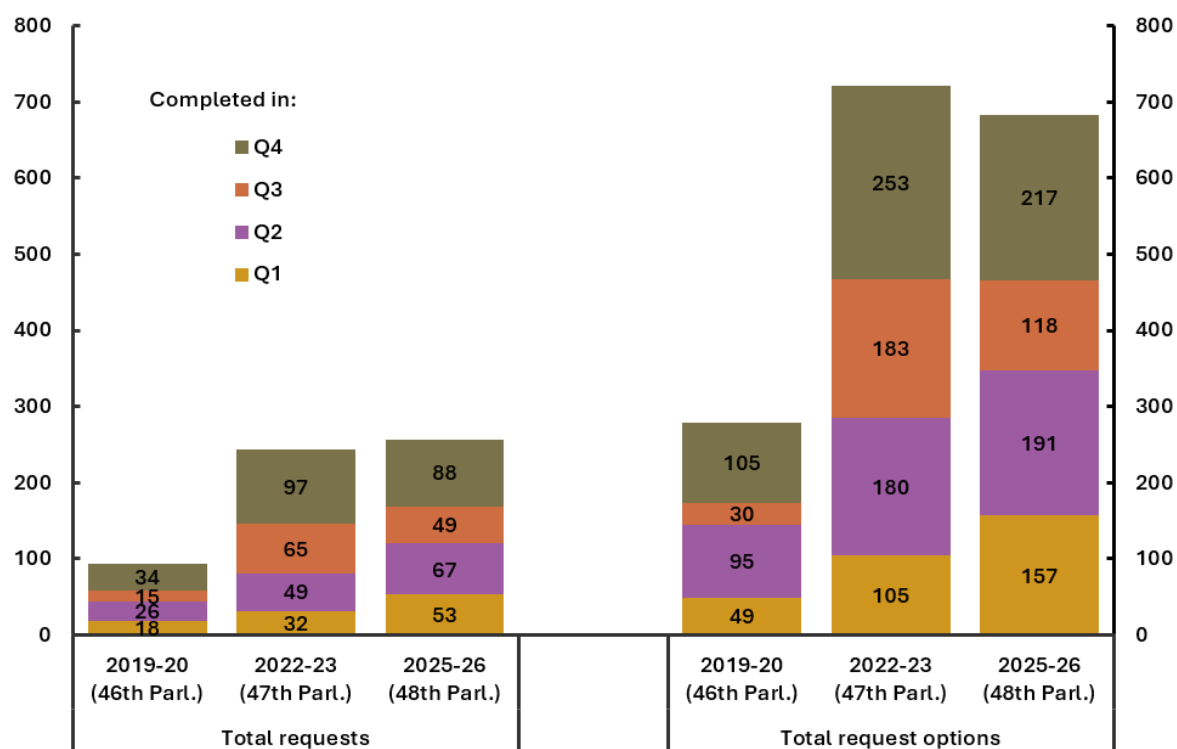


Figure 2: Number of completed requests and options in each quarter of the first year in a new Parliament



There were 217 request options completed in Quarter 4 compared to 118 in Quarter 3 (Table 2). This is an expected increase given the PBO's focus for the first month of Quarter 3 (January) was on updating and improving internal costing models to meet future demands.

Table 2: Costing and budget analysis request options performance to 30 June 2026

	21-22 total	22-23 total	23-24 total	24-25 total	25-26 Q1	25-26 Q2	25-26 Q3	25-26 Q4	2025-26 total
Options outstanding at the start of period	343	35	86	380	70	119	64	110	70
Options received in period	3,241 ^(a)	786	2,046	3,268 ^(a)	220	150	171	234 ^(d)	775
Options completed in period	2,550 ^(a)	721	1,711	3,281 ^(a)	157	191	118	217	683
Average time to completion per option (business days)	29	15	19	19 ^(e)	17	25	30	25	24
Median time to completion per option (business days)	18	14	15	15 ^(e)	14	24	27	23	20
Options withdrawn in period	999 ^(b)	14	41	297 ^(b)	14	14	7	9	44
Options outstanding at the end of period	35	86	380	70	119	64	110 ^(c)	118 ^(d)	118

Explanatory notes to this table are provided at Attachment B.

Parliamentarian Requests - Timing

Our median time for completion of parliamentary requests decreased from 27 days in Quarter 3 to 23 business days in Quarter 4 of 2025-26 (Figure 3), against our benchmark of 15 days. This had been against a trend of increasing time, by quarter, for the financial year. The time to completion has come down in Quarter 4 in part due to the focus on model development during Quarter 3. During Quarters 3 and 4, several new staff were onboarded, trained and began delivering responses to parliamentarians.

In managing the delivery of costings, we engaged with parliamentarians and major party co-ordinators to communicate our strategy and to complete requests according to their priority, so that we still delivered critical work as timely as possible. As noted in our previous report, we expect the work on models to drive some efficiencies, but note that if demand continues along current trends then response times are unlikely to return to our target of a median of 15 days.

Figure 3: Median response time for policy costing and budget analysis requests

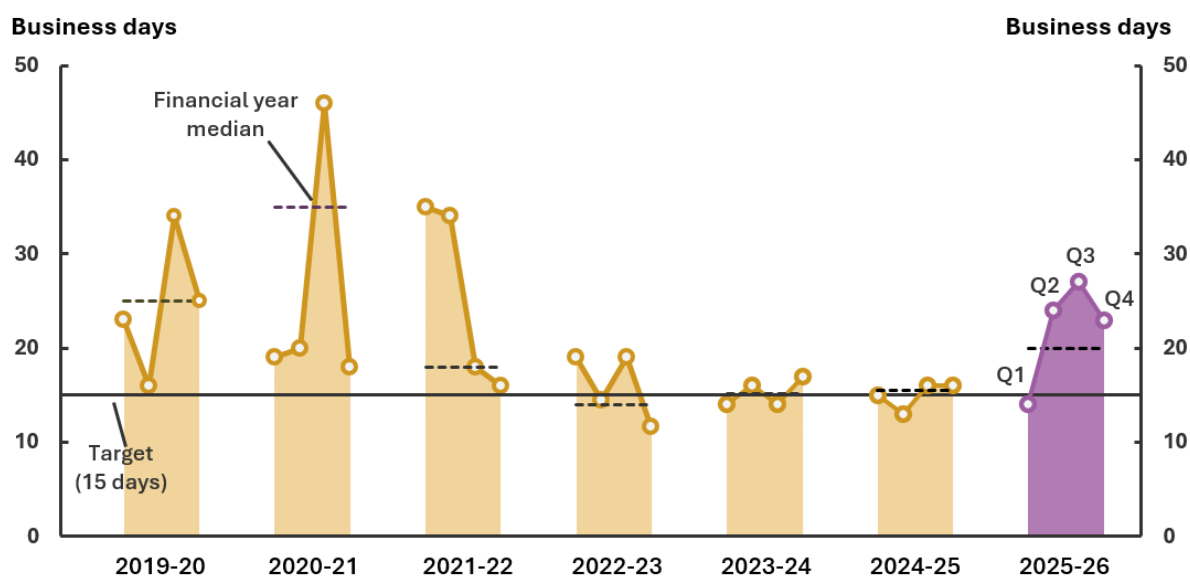


Table 3: Completed costing and budget analysis requests, disaggregated by whether the request required an associated information request to 30 June 2026

	22-23 total	23-24 total	24-25 total	25-26 Q1	25-26 Q2	25-26 Q3	25-26 Q4	25-26 total
Request options completed	721	1,711	2,680 ^(a)	157	191	118	217	683
With information requests	220	388	484	59	26	11	18	122
Without information requests	501	1,323	2,196	98	165	107	199	599
Percentage with information requests	31%	23%	18%	38%	14%	9%	8%	17%
Average time to completion (business days)	15	19	18	17	25	30	25	24
With information requests	22	29	27	16	31	37	21	23
Without information requests	13	16	17	17	24	29	26	24
Median time to completion (business days)	14	15	15	14	24	27	23	20
With information requests	22	25	23	13	34	34	20	20
Without information requests	10	11	13	15	22	23	23	20

Note: the table identifies the number of request options completed by the PBO, noting that a single request can contain multiple options.

(a) Total excludes 601 costings prepared for the *2025 Election Commitments Report*.

PBO requests for information from Australian Government agencies

A driver of the time to completion is whether the PBO needs to source information from other agencies to complete the request. Agencies usually have 10 days to provide information to the PBO. The median time to completion is usually significantly shorter for costings and analyses not requiring information requests (Table 3).

Table 4 shows the time taken by agencies to respond to information requests. The number of information requests typically increases following the release of economic updates. Most requests are answered in 10 days, with complex requests sometimes taking longer. In 2025-26, there were 342 completed requests across 25 agencies, provided in an average of 12 business days.

Table 4: Agency responses to PBO information requests to 30 June 2026^(a)

	21-22 total	22-23 total	23-24 total	24-25 total	25-26 Q1	25-26 Q2	25-26 Q3	25-26 Q4	25-26 total
Responses received in period	538	354	429	571	34	25	126	157	342
Percentage received on time (%)	99	99	99	99	100	100	100	99	99
Average response time (business days)	6	10	12	10	10	17	14	11	12

(a) Figures updated across 2025-26 to reflect final responses received.

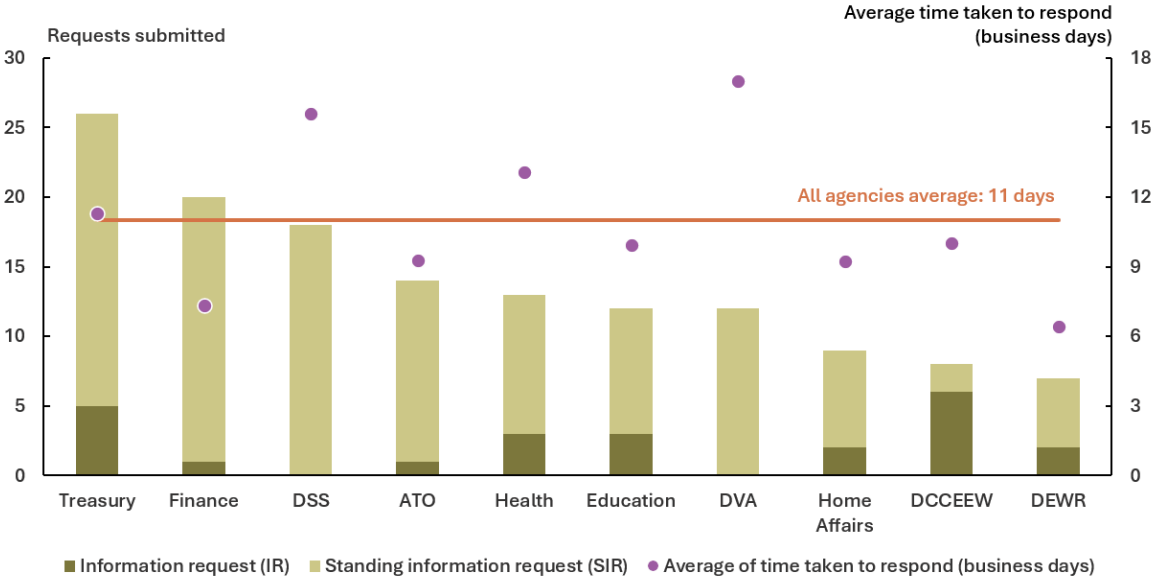
Note: Average response time excludes agency standing information requests without due dates.

Table 5: Information request responsiveness by agencies: 1 April to 30 June 2026

Commonwealth entity	Responses received in period	Average business days to respond	Late responses	% late
Attorney-General's Department	1	5	0	0%
Australian Taxation Office	14	9	0	0%
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	2	9	0	0%
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	8	10	1	13%
Department of Defence	2	9	0	0%
Department of Education	12	10	1	8%
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	7	6	0	0%
Department of Finance	20	7	0	0%
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2	12	0	0%
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing	13	13	0	0%
Department of Home Affairs	9	9	0	0%
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	2	11	0	0%
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts	2	11	0	0%
Department of Social Services	18	16	0	0%
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	1	9	0	0%
Department of the Treasury	26	11	0	0%
Department of Veterans Affairs	12	17	0	0%
Housing Australia	1	12	0	0%
National Disability Insurance Agency	1	10	0	0%
Services Australia	4	6	0	0%
Total	157	11	2	1%

Table 5 provides the breakdown of responsiveness for individual agencies for the period 1 April to 30 June 2026 (the top 10 agencies and their responsiveness are highlighted in Figure 4). There were 2 late responses during the period. Where appropriate, the PBO negotiates extensions with agencies on timeframes to complete requests.

Figure 4: Top 10 Agency responses to PBO information requests with average response time, 1 April to 30 June 2026



Publicly released parliamentary requests referenced in the public debate

The PBO’s responses to parliamentary requests are confidential, except for those prepared for parliamentary committees or if the requestor publishes the response. Publicly released responses are published on the PBO website. Two parliamentary requests were publicly released in Quarter 4 of 2025-26 (Table 6). Both responses were referenced in media.

Table 6: Costings or budget analysis publicly released and referenced between 1 April and 30 June 2026

Description of policy	Party or Parliamentary	Date of PBO release	Number of references*	Media type
Cost of increasing the size of Parliament	Senator the Hon James McGrath	8 April 2026	30	Print, Online, Radio, Media Release
HECS indexation timing	Dr Monique Ryan MP	3 June 2026	24	Print, Online, Radio, TV, Media Release, Podcast, Speech

*Includes syndicated online publications.

Note: While the PBO endeavours to capture all policy announcements that reference PBO costings, there may be announcements missing from the table above, for example, because the announcement was not reflected in any media monitored by the PBO.

Public reporting of PBO responses to requests

We routinely monitor references to the PBO in media articles to ensure we, and the information or advice we prepare, are referenced correctly. Our approach for assessing and reacting to public references to our work is on our [website](#).

Between 1 April and 30 June 2026, we have requested a clarification or correction 4 times, compared to 3 instances in the previous quarter. These were all addressed.

We report this information at an aggregate level for transparency while maintaining confidentiality.

Self-initiated program

Our self-initiated work program is set around the themes of fiscal sustainability, medium- and long-term fiscal risks, improving understanding of the budget, and distributional analysis. Since the last Activity report, we have focused on our flagship publications triggered by the Government publishing its 2026-27 Budget. We released a *Guide to the 2026-27 Budget*, the *2026-27 Budget Snapshot* and updates to *Historical Fiscal Data* and *Historical Budget Forecasts and Measures*, which included, for the first time, a list of all budget measures announced over the past decade. We also expanded our self-initiated program with the release of *Costing Concepts* and our first tranche of *Policy Costing Analyses*. These products are designed to explain the frameworks that underpin our costings and show, through hypothetical policy scenarios, how policy changes can affect the federal budget.

During this reporting period, key priorities also included work on the *2026-27 Medium-Term Budget Outlook* and updating the *Build your own budget* tool to include data from the 2026-27 Budget. These products were released early in 2026-27. See [Attachment A](#) for our planned publication schedule.

External engagement

A key priority for the PBO is to elevate our interactions with parliamentarians, their staff, and committees especially leading up to the federal election. We are committed to continual improvement in our service delivery and to making our work accessible to our audience.

Parliamentarians and staff are welcome to call, email or come by our office. Parliamentarians and other stakeholders sometimes request bespoke training and education sessions. Where appropriate, the PBO partners with the Parliamentary Library to deliver these sessions either in person or via Teams.

Activities since the last report include:

- providing individual briefings to members of the 48th Parliament to assist understanding of the budget and the services provided by the PBO
- the Parliamentary Budget Officer attended the 18th Annual Meeting of the OECD Working Party of Parliamentary and Independent Fiscal Institutions in Paris.
- a representative of the PBO attended the 4th NABO-OECD Annual Conference of Asian Parliamentary Budget Officials in Seoul, Korea in April
- partnering with the Parliamentary Library to present our most popular seminar in the Budget Insights series: *Navigating the Budget* on 7 May
- presenting to a delegation from the Indonesian Ministry of Finance on 30 June on the role of the PBO and providing a demonstration of BYOB.

Demand for PBO Self-Initiated products

Media references

In Quarter 4, we published 3 planned products on schedule: a *Guide to the 2026-27 Budget*, the *2026-27 Budget Snapshot* and an *2026-27 Budget updates to Historical Fiscal Data and Historical Budget Forecasts and Measures*.

Additionally, we published 4 other products: a series of *Costing Concepts* and *Policy Costing Analyses* including *Increase defence spending*, *Increasing the GST rate* and *Reduce the rate of fuel tax credits*.

Of the 15 publications mentioned in this quarter, the majority (11) were published and updated in previous quarters. This reflects that many of our publications have a long ‘shelf-life’.

Table 7: PBO publication mentions in media during 1 April to 30 June 2026

Publication title	Date first released	Number of references*
2025-26 Medium Term Budget Outlook: Beyond the Budget	18 Sep 2025	41
Build your own budget	16 Dec 2022	21
Policy Costing Analysis: Increase defence spending	18 June 2026	12
2025-26 National Fiscal Outlook	4 Dec 2025	6
Small Model of Australian Representative Taxpayer	18 Dec 2023	5
2025 Election Commitments Report	20 Jun 2025	4
2026-27 Budget Snapshot	13 May 2026	3
Budget Explainer: Alternative financing of government policies	19 March 2020	3
Historical Fiscal Data	4 Feb 2022	3
Policy Costing Analysis: Reduce the rate of fuel tax credits	18 June 2026	3
Policy Costing Analysis: Increasing the GST rate	18 June 2026	2
Budget Explainer: Bracket creep and its fiscal impact	29 Sep 2021	1
Budget Explainer: Dividend imputation and franking credits	13 June 2024	1
Budget Explainer: Fuel taxation in Australia	21 Sep 2022	1
Budget Bite: Trends in personal income tax	18 Nov 2022	1

*Includes syndicated online publications.

Website engagement – total page views

Interest in our products can be seen through webpage view statistics. Website engagement is measured through a collection of website analytics for website page views, adjusted for the ‘bounce rate’ (views of less than 10 seconds and no page interactions).

We measure the website page views in aggregate, to acknowledge that the stock of self-initiated products grows over time, and that many of them have a long shelf life and continue to be in demand long after they have been released. Publication products include fiscal updates, explainers, data and tools.

In Quarter 4, we received a total of 21,918 website views on publication pages. We generally see an increase of website activity during the Budget period.

Table 8: Google analytics data – Total traffic to all Publications web pages

Quarter	Total page views*
2025-26 Quarter 1	17,348
2025-26 Quarter 2	12,090
2025-26 Quarter 3	14,378
2025-26 Quarter 4	21,918
2025-26 Total	65,734
2024-25 Quarter 1	13,288
2024-25 Quarter 2	15,531
2024-25 Quarter 3	19,066
2024-25 Quarter 4	16,946
2024-25 Total	64,831

* Adjusted for bounce rate

Website engagement – total product views

We also measure website page views of those products delivered within the reporting period, to determine the demand and relevance of new products.

Table 9 below shows data collected from Google Analytics for the number of page views for products released this quarter and top performing publications released in prior quarters. All relevant products¹ met the target of 100 page views, and therefore this measure is on track.

Table 9 and 10 also illustrates that many of our most popular publications are from previous years, reflecting that our ‘explainers’ and budget products have continued relevance. Some of these are unlikely to generate high numbers of page views on initial release but have longer term activity and engagement than publications related to the latest budget update. Some past products may receive a rapid increase in page views when policy debates return to those topics.

Table 9: Google Analytics data for publications released in 2025-26 and prior years²

Publication	Published	Page views ^(a)
Published in Quarter 1		
Build your own Budget: 2025-26 Budget update	18 Sep 2025	275
2025-26 Medium-Term Budget Outlook: Beyond the Budget	18 Sep 2025	352
Unlegislated measures tracker (update) ^(b)	21 Aug 2025	314
Published in Quarter 2		
Build your own Budget – 2025-26 MYEFO update	23 Dec 2025	43
Historical Fiscal Data – 2025-26 MYEFO update	18 Dec 2025	45
2025-26 MYEFO Snapshot	17 Dec 2025	153
Published in Quarter 3		
Small Model of Australian Representative Taxpayers (SMART) 2025-26 MYEFO update ^(b)	25 Mar 2026	17

¹ Regular updates to data packs and regularly maintained products are not expected to garner significant page views, and are not considered relevant products.

² The quarterly data for each publication shows the number of engagements received within the quarter in which they were published.

Publication	Published	Page views ^(a)
Published in Quarter 4		
Costing Concepts: Bulk billing; Concessional loans; Nicotine prices; Policies impacting prices	28 Apr 2026	40 ^(c)
Guide to the 2026-27 Budget ^(b)	12 May 2026	759
2026-27 Budget Snapshot	13 May 2026	2,376
Historical Fiscal Data and Historical Budget Forecasts – 2026-27 Budget update ^(b)	13 May 2026	458
Policy Costing Analysis: Increase defence spending	18 Jun 2026	89
Policy Costing Analysis: Increasing the GST rate	18 Jun 2026	99
Policy Costing Analysis: Reduce the rate of fuel tax credits	18 Jun 2026	101
Viewed in 2025-26, but published in prior years (2025-26 total)³		
Budget Explainer: Dividend imputation and franking credits	Jun 2022	6,114
Budget Explainer: Fuel taxation in Australia	Sep 2022	5,122
2025-26 National Fiscal Outlook	Dec 2025	3,552
Build your own budget	Dec 2022	3,530
2025-26 Budget Snapshot	Mar 2025	2,733
Australia's Tax Mix Appendix A: Australian government taxes	Nov 2024	2,463
2025 Election Commitments Report (ECR)	Jun 2025	2,450
2024-25 National Fiscal Outlook	Oct 2024	2,423
Online budget glossary	Jan 2021	2,342
2025-26 Medium-Term Budget Outlook: Beyond the Budget	Sep 2025	2,077

a) Adjusted for bounce rate.

b) Regular updates to data packs and regularly maintained products are not expected to garner significant page views, and are not considered 'relevant products' for the purpose of the PBO's performance metrics. Guides are also not considered relevant products.

c) Combined total.

³ This refers to the combined number of website page views across all publication webpages, regardless of their release date received throughout 2025-26.

Table 10: Top 10 performing PBO product web pages with the most views, by type and date during 1 April to 30 June 2026

	Page title	Date first released	Type	Total page views*
1	Phase out negative gearing and CGT tax concessions for property investors with more than one investment property (1)	20 Jun 2025	2025 ECR costing (Greens)	19,841
2	2026-27 Budget Snapshot (new)	13 May 2026	Publication	2,376
3	\$1,000 instant tax deduction for work-related expenses	20 Jun 2025	2025 ECR costing (Labor)	1,736
4	2025-26 National Fiscal Outlook (3)	4 Dec 2025	Publication	1,410
5	Budget Explainer: Dividend imputation and franking credits (4)	13 Jun 2024	Publication	1,326
6	Build your own budget (6)	Dec 2022	Interactive tool	1,319
7	Budget Explainer: Fuel Taxation in Australia (2)	21 Sep 2022	Publication	1,300
8	2025-26 Budget Snapshot	25 Mar 2025	Publication	1,073
9	Online budget glossary (9)	Jan 2021	Online tool	876
10	Guide to the 2026-27 Budget (new)	12 May 2026	Guidance	759

* Adjusted for bounce rate. Where a product has been updated, the 'Date released' is when it was first released. Views are for the quarter.

The information in the brackets is the position in the top 10 for the product in the previous report.

Media Mentions

Media mentions provide an indication of how the PBO is perceived by external stakeholders and whether our outputs remain relevant. In Quarter 4, we recorded a total of 307 media mentions. Most were neutral (292, or 93%), with a small number assessed as positive (15, or 5%) and 6 mentions (2%) were assessed as negative. The sentiment around the negative mentions primarily related to the misconceptions of the PBO's costing services not being available to all Parliamentarians.

Costings continued to account for most media mentions (Table 11). In Quarter 4, most costing mentions referenced costings there were published in previous quarters or about unreleased costings. Compared with Quarter 3, there was an increase of mentions about PBO publications and the PBO's general role. The *2025-26 Medium Term Budget Outlook* and *Build your own budget* accounted for more than half of the publication mentions (62 of 109). The increase in mentions of the PBO's general function and purpose was largely due to commentary around the misconceptions regarding access to PBO's costing services (29 of 48 mentions).

Table 11: Distribution of media mentions – Quarterly comparison

2025-26	Costings	Publications	Function or purpose of the PBO	Total mentions
Quarter 1	120	73	13	206
Quarter 2	79	102	20	201
Quarter 3	267	80	28	375
Quarter 4	150	109	48	307
Total year to date	616	364	109	1,089

Stakeholder Feedback

Feedback from our stakeholders provides opportunities for continuous improvement and increased efficiencies in service delivery. We utilise feedback from the following sources:

1. Formal feedback – stakeholder interviews
2. Unsolicited feedback provided by stakeholders which may include:
3. Feedback via email/phone/private briefings/meetings
4. Other sources, as appropriate.

We registered 5 pieces of positive unsolicited feedback from clients and other stakeholders on their customer services experience and the quality of our costings.

People and systems

We continue to invest in our people and systems to build depth, drive efficiency and improve resilience. A key focus is to maintain a high-performing team culture and embed an agile arrangement where all technical teams are involved in completing parliamentary requests, engagement and self-initiated activity, promoting cross-team collaboration and operational flexibility.

Staffing

At 30 June 2026, we had 44.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and a headcount of 49. In addition to this our staffing included 4 secondees under the Parliament of Australia Graduate program and 1 secondee from Treasury.

Employee Census

The PBO participated in the 2026 Australian Public Service Employee Census – our 6th consecutive year of participation. 95% (41) of the 43 PBO employees who were invited to complete the survey did so. This response rate is an increase of the 2025 participation rate of 87%. Census results are expected to be available from 27 July 2026 and the PBO's staff consultative forum will have responsibility consulting with staff on those results and developing an action plan.

The action plan from our 2025 census is largely complete.

Information and communication technology (ICT) capability

The PBO operates in a modern, collaborative, and integrated cloud-based ICT environment. We continue to work with the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS), our ICT platform provider, to ensure technology meets our business needs.

We continue to improve our internal ICT capability, taking advantage of the greater availability of low/no code tools such as Microsoft Power Platform. This has allowed us to internally develop and maintain a suite of workflow apps and automations to support our work with greater efficiency. By building the tools ourselves we have been agile in responding to unexpected or emerging needs, enabling us to deploy updates and new features in a highly responsive manner.

Activities since the last report include:

- Building the PBO's AI capabilities, prioritising safe and effective use.
- Finalisation of a PBO-specific Business Classification Taxonomy as a first step in improving our information management capability.
- Successful release of a workflow to automate one of the most labour-intensive steps of the costing process.

Our Performance Measures

The PBO’s performance measures are published in our [Corporate Plan](#) and results are reported in our Annual Report. For Quarter 4 of 2025-26, the performance metrics were assessed as follows:

- 9 were ‘on track’
- 1 was ‘off track’
- 3 were not applicable as the triggering event has not happened (the majority relate to the Election Commitments Report, which is triggered by the next general election).

The PBO adopts a 3-point scale to assess and track performance each quarter:

- **Off Track** - Only a minority of the criteria have been met or not at all.
- **Requires Monitoring** - The majority of criteria have been met; however, the intended result was not fully achieved as planned.
- **On Track** - All elements of the target have been met; the intended result was achieved as planned.

The following table provides the detailed Quarter 4 update against our performance measures.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET	Q4 RESULTS	LINKS TO FURTHER DETAIL WITHIN THIS ACTIVITY REPORT
1. Output measures			
1.1 Number of policy costing and budget analysis requests completed	Equal to or greater than historical levels in the election cycle	On track	Parliamentarian requests
1.2 Number of PBO self-initiated products	Publish between 14 and 18 self-initiated products	On track	Self-initiated program – planned and published
1.3 Publication of the Election Commitments Report within the legislated timeframe	Less than 30 days after the end of the caretaker period or 7 days before the first sitting day of parliament	Not applicable ^(a)	Not Applicable this reporting period
2. Efficiency measures			
2.1 Median time to complete policy costing and budget analysis requests	15 business days or fewer (non-caretaker)	Off track	Parliamentarian Requests - Timing
2.2 Percentage of fiscal update related products published at the time specified by our schedule	100% of fiscal update related products are published at the time specified in our schedule	On track	Website engagement – total page views
3. Effectiveness measures			
3.1 Percentage of PBO publicly released parliamentarian requests referenced in the public debate	80% of publicly released parliamentarian requests referenced by media sources	On track	Publicly released parliamentarian requests referenced in the public debate
3.2 Demand for PBO self-initiated products	(a) 50% of relevant products are reported on by a major news outlet	On track	Demand for PBO Self-Initiated Products
	(b) 45,000 web page views (p/a)	On track	Demand for PBO Self-Initiated Products
	(c) 85% of relevant products receive at least 100 web site page views (p/a)	On track	Demand for PBO Self-Initiated Products
3.3 Demand for the Election Commitments Report	Demand for the Election Commitments Report	Not applicable ^(a)	Not Applicable this reporting period

3.4 Proportion of pre-election PBO responses to parliamentary requests that have informed election commitments included in the Election Commitments Report	60% of pre-election PBO responses to parliamentary requests have informed election commitments included in the Election Commitments Report	Not applicable ^(a)	Not Applicable this reporting period
3.5 Proportion of feedback from stakeholders that indicates a high-level of satisfaction regarding the quality of the service and outputs provided by the PBO	85% of feedback is positive or neutral	On track	Stakeholder Feedback
3.6 Proportion of media mentions that indicate our outputs are of high-quality and that we are perceived as independent, robust, and/or non-partisan	90% of mentions are positive or neutral	On track	Media Mentions

- a) These measures will remain unreported until after the next general election has been held – the next general election will be held sometime between 7 August 2027 and 20 May 2028.

Attachment A: Self-initiated program

Table A1: 2025-26 Self-initiated program – planned and published

Title of publication	Publication	
	Planned	Actual
Quarter 1		
Unlegislated measures tracker	-	21 Aug 2025
Build your own budget (BYOB) – 2025-26 Budget update	Sept 2025	18 Sept 2025
2025-26 Medium-Term Budget Outlook: Beyond the Budget	Sept 2025	18 Sept 2025
Quarter 2		
2025-26 National Fiscal Outlook	Q2	4 Dec 2025
2025-26 MYEFO Snapshot	Dec 2025	17 Dec 2025
Historical Fiscal Data – MYEFO update	Dec 2025	18 Dec 2025
Quarter 3		
BYOB – 2025-26 MYEFO update	Jan 2026	23 Dec 2025
Small Model of Australian Representative Taxpayers (SMART) – 2025-26 MYEFO update	Jan 2026	25 Mar 2026
Unlegislated measures tracker (post MYEFO)	Feb 2026	n/a*
Budget Explainer	Q3	-
Quarter 4		
Costing Concepts: Bulk billing; Concessional loans; Nicotine prices; Policies impacting prices	-	28 Apr 2026
Guide to the 2026-27 Budget	May 2026	12 May 2026
2026-27 Budget Snapshot	May 2026	13 May 2026
Historical Fiscal Data & Historical Budget Forecasts & Measures – 2026-27 Budget update	May 2026	13 May 2026
Policy Costing Analysis: Increase defence spending	-	18 Jun 2026
Policy Costing Analysis: Increasing the GST rate	-	18 Jun 2026
Policy Costing Analysis: Reduce the rate of fuel tax credits	-	18 Jun 2026
BYOB – 2026-27 Budget update	June 2026	14 Jul 2026
SMART – 2026-27 Budget update	June 2026	-
2026-27 Medium-Term Budget Outlook	June 2026	14 Jul 2026
Budget Explainer	Q4	-

* Decision made not to update this publication at this time, as a recent publication of this had occurred in August 2025. A new publication release cycle will instead be implemented, publishing after future MYEFOs.

Attachment B: Explanatory notes for Table 2

Table 2: Costing and budget analysis request options performance to 30 June 2026 identifies the number of 'options' received by the PBO, noting that a single request can contain multiple options.

- a) For 2021-22 this includes 316 costings prepared for the 2022 Election Commitments Report (ECR). For 2024-25 this includes 601 costings prepared for the 2025 ECR.
- b) Most of these requests were automatically withdrawn due to the expiration of the 46th and 47th Parliaments in accordance with the PBO's legislative mandate which does not allow for requests to carry over between parliaments. 677 options were withdrawn in 2022. 197 options were automatically withdrawn in Q3 2024-25 due to the expiration of the 47th Parliament.
- c) Since the publication of the PBO 2025-26 Q3 Activity Report, we have re-examined metadata for Q1, Q2 and Q3 of 2025-26 and recalculated the number of options for requests that were outstanding. This has led to the options received in the period increased for Q1, Q2 and Q3, from 217 to 220, 111 to 150 and 120 to 171 respectively. Consequently, the total request outstanding options at the end of Q1 and Q2 2025-26 were also revised upward from 116 to 119 and from 60 to 64.
- d) This is a preliminary number based on an initial assessment of the number of options involved in each parliamentary request and is subject to change on completion of the costing.
- e) Average and median day counts exclude costings prepared for the 2022 and 2025 ECRs.