



Tackling Modern Slavery	
Party:	Australian Labor Party
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>This proposal has 2 components which would take effect from 1 January 2023.</p> <p>Component 1: Establish an office of the Australian Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, which would reside within the Attorney General’s Department.</p> <p>This body would be modelled on the United Kingdom’s Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. It would be responsible for monitoring the efforts and effectiveness of all state institutions to tackle modern slavery, funding modern slavery research, and for maintaining a constant exchange with civil society and stakeholders.</p> <p>The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner would receive a similar salary to the Australian Human Rights Commissioner.</p> <p>In addition to the Commission, the body would employ five additional full-time equivalent staff members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief of Staff (SES B1 / EL2)• Research and Policy Officer (EL2)• Victim Support and Stakeholder Office (EL1)• Communications Officer (APS6)• Office Manager (APS5). <p>The body would have a travel budget equivalent to £17,852 per year (2019-20 figure) in the first two years, followed by £55,887 per year (2016-17 figure), indexed to the consumer price index (CPI). These travel expense amounts are modelled off the travel expenses of the UK’s Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner before and during the pandemic.</p> <p>The body would also require funding for IT and telecommunications, office supplies and publishing, research, and training.</p> <p>Component 2: Boost resources for the Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking to work with partners in our region to build awareness and help countries strengthen their responses to modern slavery – including forced labour and forced marriage. Funding amounts will be worked out through government consultation.</p> <p>Both components would be funded from existing departmental resources and would be split equally between the Department of Home Affairs and the Attorney General’s Department.</p>	

Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to have nil impact on the fiscal and underlying cash balance over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period.

The proposal would not have an ongoing impact beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate public debt interest (PDI) tables) over the period to 2032-33 is provided at Attachment A.

Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total to 2025-26
Fiscal balance	-	-	-	-	-
Underlying cash balance	-	-	-	-	-

(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.

- The expenses of the body would be incurred evenly throughout the year.
- The Chief of Staff would be employed at the SES B1 level.
- Wage expenses would be indexed by wage cost index WCI 1, while non-wage expenses would be indexed by CPI as specified.
- The commission would be housed within existing real estate overseen by the Attorney General's Department and so no additional costs would be incurred for real estate.

Methodology

- The remuneration of the Commissioner was based on that of the Australian Human Rights Commissioner (as specified).
- The financial implications for the five additional full-time equivalent staff were estimated using a departmental cost calculator provided by the Department of Finance. The calculator captures non-salary related staffing expenses such as staff training and development, ICT services, properties operations and organisational services.
- The specified capped travel expenses were converted into Australia Dollars (using the exchange rate as at 19 April 2022) and then indexed by CPI.
- As specified, funding arrangements for Component 2 will be worked out through government consultation and have not been presented in Attachment A Table A1.

Financial implications were rounded consistent with the PBO's rounding rules as outlined on the PBO Costings and budget information webpage.¹

Data sources

Anti-Slavery Commissioner (2020) [Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Annual Report 2019-20](#), Anti-Slavery Commission, accessed 14 June 2022.

Australian Human Rights Commission (2021) [Australian Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2020-21](#), Australian Human Rights Commission, accessed 14 June 2022.

Commonwealth of Australia (2022) *Budget 2022-23*, Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra.

¹ https://www.apb.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Budget_Office/Costings_and_budget_information

Exchange Rates (2022) [British Pound to Australian Dollar Exchange Rate](#) accessed 19 April 2022.

Department of Finance provided data on the average level of departmental costs per APS employee.

Attachment A – Tackling Modern Slavery – financial implications

Table A1: Tackling Modern Slavery – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^(a)

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	Total to 2025-26	Total to 2032-33
Expenses													
Departmental													
<i>Commissioner remuneration</i>	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-1.4	-4.3
<i>Staffing and additional expenses</i>	-0.5	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-3.5	-10.5
<i>Travel expense</i>	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.9
<i>Offset from Attorney General's Department</i>	0.35	0.70	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.80	2.55	7.85
<i>Offset from Department of Home Affairs</i>	0.35	0.70	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.80	2.55	7.85
Total – expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (excluding PDI)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(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.

.. Not zero but rounded to zero.

- Indicates nil.

Table A2: Tackling Modern Slavery – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)^{(a)(b)}

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	Total to 2025-26	Total to 2032-33
<i>Fiscal balance</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Underlying cash balance</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- (a) As this table is presented as a memorandum item, these figures are not reflected in the totals in the tables 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 – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au)