



<b>Establish an independent Police Ombudsman</b>	
Party:	Australian Greens
<p>Summary of proposal:</p> <p>The proposal would improve police oversight and implement Australia's obligations under the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) by funding National Preventative Mechanisms (NPMs) in each jurisdiction, as well as establishing an Independent Police Ombudsman in each jurisdiction.</p> <p>The Commonwealth and states would jointly fund NPMs in each jurisdiction on a 50:50 basis.</p> <p>The proposal has two components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish NPMs in each jurisdiction and double the funding allocation for the Commonwealth NPM from the 2018-19 Budget to adopt the NPM National Co-ordinator Role</li><li>• Establish an Independent Police Ombudsman in each state and territory and the Commonwealth. Funding would be split between states and territories for the non-Commonwealth jurisdictions.</li></ul> <p>The structure and funding for the NPMs and Independent Police Ombudsman are sourced from the Victorian Ombudsman and the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland respectively.</p> <p>The proposal would have effect from 1 July 2022.</p>	

## Costing overview

The proposal would be expected to decrease the fiscal and underlying cash balances by around \$476 million over the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. The costing does not include any additional departmental expenditure for existing Commonwealth entities as the entities to be established under the proposal would be independent and self-directed or established within state government jurisdiction and funded by grants.

The proposal would have an ongoing impact beyond the 2022-23 Budget forward estimates period. A breakdown of the financial implications (including separate PDI tables) over the period to 2032-33 are provided at Attachment A.

**Table 1: Financial implications (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	<b>Total to 2025-26</b>
Fiscal balance	-124.9	-129.4	-109.8	-112.3	<b>-476.4</b>
Underlying cash balance	-124.9	-129.4	-109.8	-112.3	<b>-476.4</b>

(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.

- There would be no additional departmental costs for existing Government agencies as the entities created under the proposal would be independent from government and self-directed. Any co-ordination function required would be undertaken by the Commonwealth body for each entity from within their funding allocation.
- A body similar in size and scope to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland would be required in each jurisdiction.

## Methodology

Costs for the NPMs were calculated using the recommendation of the Victorian Ombudsman as a baseline, adjusting for each state and territory based on their prisoner population from publicly available data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Costs for the Independent Police Ombudsman were determined using the operating budget of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland from their 2020-21 Annual report, with additional establishment costs over the first two years of operation.

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

## Data sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), [Corrective Services](#), ABS, Australian Government, 2022, accessed on 9 June 2022.

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, [Annual Report](#), Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, 2021, accessed on 9 June 2022.

Victorian Ombudsman, [OPCAT in Victoria](#), Victorian Ombudsman, 2019, accessed on 9 June 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Budget\\_Office/Costings\\_and\\_budget\\_information](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Budget_Office/Costings_and_budget_information)

## Attachment A – Establish an independent Police Ombudsman– financial implications

**Table A1: Establish an independent Police Ombudsman – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)</sup>**

	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
<b>Expenses</b>													
<b>Administered</b>													
<i>Component 1: National Preventative Mechanisms</i>	-16.9	-17.4	-17.8	-18.3	-18.8	-19.2	-19.7	-20.2	-20.7	-21.2	-21.7	-70.4	-211.9
<i>Component 2: Establish Independent Police Ombudsmen</i>	-108.0	-112.0	-92.0	-94.0	-96.0	-99.0	-101.0	-104.0	-106.0	-109.0	-112.0	-406.0	-1,133.0
<b>Total – expenses</b>	<b>-124.9</b>	<b>-129.4</b>	<b>-109.8</b>	<b>-112.3</b>	<b>-114.8</b>	<b>-118.2</b>	<b>-120.7</b>	<b>-124.2</b>	<b>-126.7</b>	<b>-130.2</b>	<b>-133.7</b>	<b>-476.4</b>	<b>-1,344.9</b>
<b>Total (excluding PDI)</b>	<b>-124.9</b>	<b>-129.4</b>	<b>-109.8</b>	<b>-112.3</b>	<b>-114.8</b>	<b>-118.2</b>	<b>-120.7</b>	<b>-124.2</b>	<b>-126.7</b>	<b>-130.2</b>	<b>-133.7</b>	<b>-476.4</b>	<b>-1,344.9</b>

(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: Establish an independent Police Ombudsman – Memorandum item: Public Debt Interest (PDI) impacts – Fiscal and underlying cash balances (\$m)<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

	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
<b><i>Fiscal balance</i></b>	-1.4	-4.3	-7.1	-9.8	-12.7	-16.1	-19.8	-24.0	-28.8	-34.1	-40.8	-22.6	-198.9
<b><i>Underlying cash balance</i></b>	-1.2	-4.0	-6.8	-9.5	-12.4	-15.7	-19.4	-23.5	-28.2	-33.4	-40.0	-21.5	-194.1

- (a) As this table is presented as a memorandum item, these figures are not reflected in the totals in any 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 glossary<sup>2</sup>.
- (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.

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<sup>2</sup>[Online budget glossary – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au)