



**POLICY COSTING REQUEST – DURING THE CARETAKER PERIOD FOR A
GENERAL ELECTION**

Name of policy:	Preventing blindness
Person requesting costing:	Senator Milne
Date of request to cost the policy:	14 August 2013
<i>Note: This policy costing request and the response to this request will be made publicly available.</i>	
Has a costing of this policy been requested under Section 29 of the Charter of Budget Honesty (i.e. from the Treasury or the Department of Finance and Deregulation)?	No
Details of the public release of this policy (Date, by whom and a reference to that release)	31 July 2013, Senator Siewert: http://greensmps.org.au/content/media-releases/greens-eye-initiative-reduce-avoidable-blindness-and-vision-impairment
Description of policy:	
Summary of policy (as applicable, please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	http://greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Eye_Checks.pdf ☐ • A \$10 million targeted awareness-raising campaign to encourage people to have an eye examination every two years as well as recognizing the health risk factors, such as a family history of vision loss or diabetes. • Investing \$12 million in the development of a comprehensive 10 year national eye health and vision strategy • Strengthened national eye health and vision care monitoring and research at a cost of \$13 million
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	To radically reduce the 75% of vision impairment in Australia that is avoidable.
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy, including:	
Is the policy part of a package? If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies.	No
Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?	Capped at \$35 million over four years.
Will third parties (for instance the States/Territories) have a role in funding or delivering the policy? If yes, is the Australian Government	While the federal government will have an overseeing and funding role, non-government third parties will be required to deliver the policy in the form of developing the strategy, carrying out the monitoring and research and the

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contribution capped, with additional costs to be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged?	development and management of the awareness raising campaign.			
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.	No			
Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure? If yes, which measure?	No			
If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program?	No			
Will the funding/program cost require indexation? If yes, list factors to be used.	No			
Expected impacts of the proposal				
If applicable, what are the estimated costs each year? If available, please provide details in the table below. Are these provided on an underlying cash balance or fiscal balance basis?				
Estimated financial implications (outturn prices) ^(a)				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Underlying cash balance (\$m)	-	-8.75	-8.75	-8.75
Fiscal balance (\$m)	-	-8.75	-8.75	-8.75
(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 positive number in the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.				
What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)?	The program would be funded over four years from 1 July 2014 with an even funding for those three years, meaning the final year of the program would not be included within the forward estimates.			
Has the policy been costed by a third party? If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?	Previously costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office on 18 January 2013.			
What is the expected community impact of the policy? How many people will be affected by the policy? What is the likely take up?	Blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is over six times higher than the general Australian population, so the policy will directly target and benefit these communities. According to Access Economics in: <i>Clear Focus: The Economic Impact of Vision Loss in Australia in 2009</i> , prepared by Access			

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What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions?	Economics. 2010, the cost of blindness to the economy is \$16.6 billion and rising quickly. Given that it is not a demand-driven policy estimates of likely take up are not directly relevant.
Administration of policy:	
Who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government entity, the States, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Department of Human Services, Australian Government
Should departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing? If no, will the Department be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy? If yes, please specify the key assumptions, including whether departmental costs are expected with respect to program management (by policy agencies) and additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies).	No – Department is expected to absorb the cost.
Intended date of implementation.	1 July 2014
Intended duration of policy.	Four years
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No
List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).	
Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	No
NOTE: <i>Please note that:</i> <i>The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.</i> <i>The PBO is not bound to accept the assumptions provided by the requestor. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requestor in advance of the costing being completed.</i>	