



PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)
Name of Policy:	Free whooping cough vaccine
Date of request:	9 December 2014

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	Provide free whooping cough vaccine to all NSW women in the third trimester of their pregnancy (see Attachment 1).
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	Ensure whooping cough vaccine is accessible free of charge to pregnant women in NSW.
Has the policy been publicly released yet?	

Your estimated costing of the policy ¹						
	2014/15 \$'000	2015/16 \$'000	2016/17 \$'000	2017/18 \$'000	Other years ² \$'000	Total \$'000
Impact on General Government Sector (GGS) net operating result ³						
Impact on GGS capital expenditure ⁴						
If different from above, impact on total State Sector net financial liabilities ⁵						

¹ Amounts should be expressed in nominal dollars. GGS - General Government Sector.

² Please provide information on other years if spending occurs outside the forward estimate years and will be required to cost the policy.

³ Negative for a saving that reduces expenditure

⁴ Negative for a reduction in capital expenditure.

⁵ Only required if proposal is outside GGS. Negative for a reduction in net financial liabilities.

Key assumptions made in the policy	
Does the policy relate to a previous announcement? If yes, which announcement?	No.
What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? <i>(See checklist)</i>	The Queensland Government program costs \$1.2 million. There are approximately 100,500 births each year in NSW compared to 63,000 in Queensland.
Is there a range for the costing or any sensitivity analysis that you have undertaken?	No.
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.	..

Administration of policy	
Intended date of implementation:	1 July 2015.
Intended duration of policy:	Ongoing.
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	NSW Health Communicable Diseases.
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account?	Vaccine will be provided free of charge to GPs who will administer the vaccine.
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No.

If the policy is mainly an expenditure⁶ commitment	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	Demand driven.
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	Mothers in their third trimester of pregnancy.

Attachment 1 – Free Whooping Cough Vaccine for expectant mothers

Newborn babies need to be protected against the potentially deadly whooping cough (pertussis). Women should be vaccinated against whooping cough before their baby is born in order to help protect their baby from the potentially deadly illness in their first weeks of life.

One in 200 babies who contract whooping cough will die as a result of the disease. However, whooping cough is a vaccine preventable disease.

Pregnant women should have the whooping cough vaccination pre-pregnancy or in their last trimester in order to transfer the antibodies to their unborn child – and provide their baby with protection against whooping cough in the first few weeks of their life when they are the most vulnerable.

Currently women purchase the whooping cough vaccine on prescription from their obstetrician or GP for prices ranging from \$40 - \$200 depending on the GP. This is despite NSW Health advising that mothers are the most likely source of whooping cough infection in young babies and that vaccination is most effective when it is given to women planning a pregnancy or in the third trimester of pregnancy.

Labor believes immunisation against whooping cough should be free to all mothers regardless of when and where they access the vaccine.

Policy Scope

A Labor Government will offer a free whooping cough vaccine to all NSW women in the third trimester of their pregnancy. This policy will save lives and will be funded by the Government at a cost of around \$2 million.