



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:	Specialist sexual assault and domestic violence courts
Date of request:	16 February 2015

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	Establish three specialist sexual assault and domestic violence courts – one in Parramatta, one in the Illawarra and one in Newcastle.
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	Commence a pilot program of specialist sexual assault and domestic violence courts to provide additional support to victims.
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	4 Yr Total \$'000	Other years ² \$'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>	<p>The specialist courts will hear all sexual assault and domestic violence cases (including Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders) currently heard in the corresponding district and local courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parramatta Local and District Court • Wollongong Local and District Court • Newcastle Local and District Court. <p>Each court will aim to reduce the trauma experienced by the victim by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing staff who are specially trained and who can offer greater sensitivity to the needs of the victim; • Ensuring the victim and defendant do not come in contact with each other by arranging them to enter separately and seating them in different areas of the court while waiting, and by ensuring victims can provide evidence remotely ; • Allowing vulnerable victims to give evidence remotely. <p>NSW Labor understands there is existing court capacity. Existing court facilities and staff would be used – the bulk of the cost is expected to relate to additional support staff.</p> <p>Existing judges and magistrates will preside over the cases. They will receive special training. They will take on the roles on three year terms.</p> <p>Upon forming government, a unit would be established within NSW Justice for policy development and project implementation. This would be met from within existing resources.</p>

	<p>With respect to accommodation, the preference would be to use existing court capacity where possible but new court accommodation would be established where necessary with a view to achieving the requirements above at an efficient cost.</p> <p>The Parramatta court would commence operations on 1 January 2016, the Illawarra court would commence operations on 1 July 2017 and the Newcastle court would commence operations on 1 July 2018.</p>
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:	<p>Planning to commence upon forming government.</p> <p>Parramatta court to commence from 1 January 2016.</p>
Intended duration of policy:	Over the forward estimates.
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	NSW Ministry of Justice.
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account?	No.
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	..

If the policy is mainly an expenditure⁶ commitment	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	Demand driven
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	See <u>Assumptions</u> .

⁶ Expenditure is operating expenses, e.g. salaries, interest cost and grants. Expenditures are fully included in the impact on operating balance.