



Parliamentary Budget Office - Election Policy Costing

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Referred By: Australian Labor Party
 Date Referred: 16/02/2015

Proposal No: A245
 Date Published: 23/03/2015

Proposal Title: **SPECIALIST SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS**

Cluster: Justice

General Government Sector Impacts

| | 2014-15 \$'000 | 2015-16 \$'000 | 2016-17 \$'000 | 2017-18 \$'000 | 4 Year Total \$'000 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Expenses (ex. depreciation) | | 869 | 1,506 | 2,943 | 5,318 |
| Depreciation | | | | | - |
| Less: Offsets | | | | | - |
| Revenue | | | | | - |
| Net Operating Result: | - | (869) | (1,506) | (2,943) | (5,318) |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capital Expenditure | | | | | - |
| Capital Offsets | | | | | - |
| Capital Expenditure: | - | - | - | - | - |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Net Lending/(Borrowing) | - | (869) | (1,506) | (2,943) | (5,318) |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Financial Liabilities: | - | 869 | 2,375 | 5,318 |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|--------------|

Total State Sector Impacts

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Financial Liabilities: | - | 869 | 2,375 | 5,318 |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|--------------|

Notes and costing assumptions

The policy proposes to establish three specialist sexual assault and domestic violence courts – one in Parramatta, one in Newcastle and one in the Illawarra. 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.

The costing is based on an integrated court model which adopts the practices of a specialist court. The costing assumes specialist courts will:

- use existing court facilities without upgrades such as separate entrances and waiting rooms, and
- distribute all domestic violence and sexual assault matters to specific courtrooms;
- allocate specialist magistrates and judges, from the existing pool of magistrates and judges, to domestic violence and sexual assault matters only, for three year rotational periods;
- allocate specialist prosecutors, from the existing pool of police and DPP prosecutors, to domestic violence and sexual assault matters only, for three year rotational periods; and
- use existing departmental resources for program management.

The costing assumes the Parramatta Court will commence operations on 1 January 2016, Illawarra Court on 1 July 2017, and Newcastle Court on 1 July 2018, as per the costing request.

Costing assumptions continued:

As the Newcastle Court will not begin operations until 1 July 2018, this court will not have any budget impact during the forward estimates period.

The costing provides for the following services:

- Case management for victims
- Case management/interventions for perpetrators
- Community based domestic violence behaviour change programs
- Professional development and training
- Professional debriefing and counselling for judicial and courtroom staff
- Separate waiting rooms for victims and offenders.

Employee and other costs are escalated at 2.5 % per annum.