



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:	Nurse ratios
Date of request:	10 March 2015

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	Improve legally enforceable mandated nursing hours/equivalent ratios in paediatrics under the Public Health System Nurses and Midwives' (State) Award. This is to be phased in annually from 1 January 2016 to 1 January 2019, in equal increments.
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	Enhance paediatric patient care by improving staffing levels funded in non-tertiary hospitals to the levels of tertiary referral city hospitals.
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?	Yes – announcement of 9 March 2015.
What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? <i>(See checklist)</i>	<p>Implement improvements in nurse ratios consistent with the Paediatric component of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association 2014 policy <i>Putting Patient Safety First: Extending mandated nursing hours / ratios</i> (see attached page 3).</p> <p>Only nurses providing direct clinical care are included in the ratios/nursing hours. This does not include positions such as NUMs, NMs, CNEs, CNCs, dedicated administrative support staff and wards persons.</p> <p>In circumstances where nurse ratios are already above the proposed ratios, these should not be reduced.</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:	1 January 2016.
Intended duration of policy:	Ongoing.
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Ministry of Health.
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:	Capped at the best estimate of the cost of employing the additional nurses.
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	N/a.

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