



PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Liberals / Nationals
Name of Policy:	Institute of open adoption
Date of request:	17 February 2015

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	Refer to Attachment A
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	To increase the number of adoptions in NSW to ensure that vulnerable children and young people have safe, secure and stable homes.
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	0	1000	950	900	2850	
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.

Note: Has the policy been costed by a third party?
If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?

Key assumptions made in the policy	
Does the policy relate to a previous announcement? If yes, which announcement?	-
What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? <i>(See checklist)</i>	Refer to Attachment B
Is there a range for the costing or any sensitivity analysis that you have undertaken?	Refer to Attachment B
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.	Refer to Attachment B

Administration of policy	
Intended date of implementation:	April 2015
Intended duration of policy:	Ongoing
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Department of Family and Community Services
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account?	Refer to Attachments A&B
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	Refer to Attachments A&B

If the policy is mainly an expenditure⁶ commitment	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	Capped
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	Refer to Attachment B

If the policy is mainly a revenue commitment	
Transaction based or capped:	-
Thresholds and/or exemptions:	-
Collection method:	-
Additional expenditure associated with collection:	-

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

If the policy is mainly a capital costs⁷ commitment	
Type of work, size and capacity:	-
Proposed start and completion date of work:	-
Intended construction schedule/cashflow:	-
Offsetting expenditure savings:	-
Associated asset sell off (if any):	
On-going maintenance, depreciation and operational expenses:	-
Third party funding involvement:	-

Checklist for key assumptions (please be comprehensive and include all relevant assumptions). Assumptions could include, but are not limited to, questions such as:

- What is the expected community impact?
- How many people will be affected by the policy?
- What is the likely take up or other behavioural response you expect?
- Is there a cap on total spending proposed, a funding formula, resource agreement or other mechanism of this nature associated with the policy?
- Will third parties have a role in funding or delivering the policy (e.g. Commonwealth Government)?
- Will funding/program cost require indexation?
 - If yes, do you have any assumptions about the index that should be applied?
- What assumptions have you made about costs of administering the policy?
 - For example, will additional staff be needed in the agency responsible for the policy?
 - If you have assumptions on this, how many and at what approximate levels?
 - Are there other administrative resources required?
 - Alternatively, are you assuming administrative costs will be absorbed within the agency?

Please note that:

- The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.
- The PBO is not bound to accept the assumptions provided by the requester. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requester in advance of the costing being completed.
- Where the details of the policy costing request differ from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of the information provided in the costing request.
- These guidelines are intended to facilitate requests for costing election policies. Persons preparing such requests who wish further assistance are invited to contact the staff of the Parliamentary Budget Office.

⁷ Capital costs differ from expenditure in that only depreciation will be included in the impact on operating balance. The capital cost of the asset to be acquired will however be included in net financial liabilities.

A re-elected Baird Government will establish an Institute of Open Adoption



The Baird Government is committed to increasing the number of adoptions in NSW. We want to ensure that vulnerable children and young people have safe, secure and stable homes.

When safe family homes are not possible, we believe that open adoption can be the best option to provide children and young people with stability. Open adoption refers to building the relationship between the birth and adoptive families through contact with each other.

Making open adoption of children and young people quicker and easier is a key part of the Government's Safe Home for Life reforms of the child protection system. The reforms create better pathways for children and young people to transition from Out-of-Home Care to open adoption.

While Out-of-Home Care adoptions in NSW have increased in NSW from 45 in 2010 to 82 in 2013-14 we can and should do much better. The Baird Government is committed to increasing the number of Out-of-Home Care adoptions in NSW, as well as working with the Commonwealth and other States to increase inter-country adoptions.

One of the key aims of the Institute is to strengthen service provision to children adopted from Out-of-Home Care and their families by supporting evidence based training.

The NSW Government will provide \$2.85 million in funding over three years to establish the Institute. We will be calling for Expressions of Interest from universities, stakeholders and other interested parties to partner with us on this initiative.

A re-elected Baird Government will:

- ✓ Establish an Institute of Open Adoption to lead high-quality, independent research into open adoption to inform policy, professional development and practice in the field and build community awareness of contemporary adoption practice.
- ✓ Improve processes and timeframes for adopting children and young people in Out-of-Home Care.
- ✓ Continue to work with the Commonwealth and other States on COAG processes to increase inter-country adoption.

The Institute will help build community awareness of contemporary adoption practice, and support the Government's efforts to make pathways to adoption quicker and easier.

Back the Baird Plan and Keep NSW Working.

2015 Election Policy Costing

Proposal Title: Institute of Open Adoption

Lead Agency: Department of Family and Community Services

General Government Sector Impacts

	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	4 Year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. Depreciation)	0	1,000	950	900	2,850
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Less: Agency Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Revenue	0	0	0	0	0
Net Operating Result:	0	-1,000	-950	-900	-2,850
Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
Net Capital Expenditure:	0	0	0	0	0
Net Lending/Borrowing:	0	-1,000	-950	-900	-2,850
Net Financial Liabilities:	0	1,000	1,950	2,850	

Total State Sector Impacts

Net Financial Liabilities:	0	1,000	1,950	2,850
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Notes and costing assumptions used:

The proposal is to establish a government-supported Institute of Open Adoption. The Government will call for Expressions of Interest from universities, stakeholders and other interested parties to partner with the Government. The Institute will lead independent research into open adoption to inform policy, professional development and practice in the field. The Institute will build community awareness of contemporary adoption practice, and support efforts to improve pathways to adoption.

The costing assumes that: the Government's contribution to the cost of the Institute would be \$2.85 million; the Government's contribution will be by way of grant funding to a non-government entity; funding will be over 3 years and terminates in 2017-18; and partners will be found through an Expressions of Interest process.

It is assumed that the functions of the Institute listed above (reflecting the 1 February press release) will be carried out within the funding available from the Government (\$2.85 million) and from any additional contribution from a partner or partners and from donations.