

## Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Liberals & Nationals Government
Name of Policy:	Counselling and mental health support for students
Date of request:	Updated 15 February 2019 (original sent 14 February 2019)

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents and include information on what the policy aims to achieve):	<p>To provide full time mental health and student support experts in every government high school across the state; dedicated services for rural and remote students; and improved teacher training and programs to assist students with mental health issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Additional 100 psychologists or school counsellors (FTE) in public high schools</li><li>2) An additional 350 (FTE) student support officers in public high schools</li><li>3) Implement a team of specialist psychologists for rural and remote students (including telepsychology services) to provide regular and timely access to psychology service in rural and remote NSW public schools</li><li>4) Team up with the leading mental health organisation such as the Black Dog Institute to support schools, teachers, parents and carers to deliver best practice in prevention and early intervention in mental health support and to develop programs and courses for teachers to undertake.</li></ol>
Has the policy been publicly released yet?	No

	2018/19 \$'000	2019/20 \$'000	2020/21 \$'000	2021/22 \$'000	Total \$'000
Impact on GGS expenses					
Impact on GGS revenue					
Impact on General Government Sector (GGS) net operating result <sup>1</sup>					
Impact on GGS capital expenditure <sup>2</sup>					
Impact on GGS net lending/borrowing					

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

<b>Key assumptions made in the policy</b>	
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>This policy will be funded from within existing resources of the Department of Education.</p> <p>This proposal has been costed on the basis of information provided by the Department of Education (DoE).</p> <p><b>100 additional full time onsite school counselling positions</b> School counselling positions includes school counsellors or psychologists. School counsellors are those from a teaching and psychology background and psychologists refer to those from a psychology only background – collectively referred to as “school counselling”. By creating an additional 100 school counselling positions, there will be a full</p>

<sup>1</sup> Negative for a saving that reduces expenditure

<sup>2</sup> Negative for a reduction in capital expenditure.

	<p>time school counselling position in each public high school across the State. It is intended that these positions will be filled over the next term of government and that there needs to be lead time to fill these positions given the tight labour market, with new positions starting at the beginning of each school year.</p> <p><b>350 Student Support Officers</b> 350 additional full time student support officers will be employed to ensure every public high school has a full time SSO on site. It is intended that these positions will be filled over the next term of government.</p> <p><b>Remote and Rural support</b> 16 additional senior school psychologists, in addition to one Leader Psychology Practice and other support staff to travel to remote, rural and regional schools and provide face to face, online and telepsychology services. It is intended that this will be rolled out from school year 2020 throughout the next term of Government. These positions will be school counselling positions (i.e. school counsellors or psychologists).</p> <p><b>Partnering with Third Party Specialists</b> Grant-based partnership with third party specialist organisations: (1) to offer teacher training to better identify and deal with mental health risks in students; (2) to implement early prevention and mitigation strategies to benefit young people; (3) other programs to provide schools with the resources and capabilities relating to mental health awareness.</p>
Is there a range for the costing or any sensitivity analysis that you have undertaken?	
Are there associated savings, offsets or, in the case of a revenue proposal, offsetting expenses? If yes, please provide details.	No
Are there significant costs or savings <b>outside</b> the forward estimates period which should be considered in costing this policy? <sup>3</sup>	No

<sup>3</sup> Particularly important for large projects with long lead times, policies with a delayed timetable for implementation, or policies where up-front investment is required to achieve long term savings.

<b>Administration of policy</b>	
Intended date of implementation:	1 July 2019
Intended duration of policy <sup>4</sup> :	Ongoing
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	NSW Department of Education
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account (e.g. agreements between different levels of government)?	No
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	No

<b>If the policy is mainly an expenditure<sup>5</sup> commitment</b>	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	Capped
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	N/A

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

<b>If the policy is mainly a capital costs<sup>6</sup> commitment</b>	
<b>Nature of Capital Spending</b>	
Type of work, size and capacity:	
Proposed start and completion date of work:	
Intended construction schedule/cashflow:	
Associated asset sell off (if any):	
<b>Recurrent Impacts</b>	
Offsetting expenditure savings:	
On-going maintenance, depreciation and operational expenses:	
Third party funding involvement:	

<sup>4</sup> Where a policy is intended to be ongoing, please indicate "ongoing" in the space to the right

<sup>5</sup> Expenditure is operating expenses, e.g. salaries, interest cost and grants. Expenditures are fully included in the impact on operating balance.

<sup>6</sup> Capital costs differ from expenditure in that only depreciation will be included in the impact on operating balance.

Delivery model <sup>7</sup>	
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**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?
- Will additional staff be needed in the agency responsible for the policy?
  - How many and at what approximate levels?
- Are there other resources required?
- 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.

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<sup>7</sup> There is a range of possible delivery models, e.g. built, owned and operated by a NSW government agency; built and transferred to a private operator; privately built for public operation; privately built and operated with government assuming risk or providing a guarantee in relation to future income (often applicable to public/private partnership arrangements), and so on. The policy should provide assumptions about the proposed delivery model.