

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	Building Safer Communities - Increased funding for the Human Rights Commission
Person requesting costing:	Shane Rattenbury MLA
Date of request:	12 October 2020
Summary of proposal:	As part of the Building Safer Communities initiative, this proposal for costing is increased funding for the Human Rights Commission; providing 6 new staff to support increased demand and implement a new human rights complaints mechanism. Further information: https://greens.org.au/act/building-safer-communities.
Issue the proposal will address:	To ensure equality before the law, the justice system must be responsive to those experiencing disadvantage and prejudice. The Greens recognise that demands on the Human Rights Commission have been increasing, due to both the numbers of Canberrans seeking their services. and the ACT Government's ongoing reliance on the Commission to deliver on our progressive legislative agenda. We know that if the Commission is to continue to provide this level of services in our ACT human rights jurisdiction, we must increase its funding and staffing. The Greens also want a complaints conciliation mechanism established that would allow any person who considers that their rights have been breached by a public authority to make a complaint to the relevant authority. If not satisfied with the response the person can then take the complaint to the Human Rights Commission. The Commission would utilise its existing complaints-handling processes and conciliation expertise to offer quick, simple and accessible resolution of these complaints.

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

Note: The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

Costs are based on employing 6 staff at ASO 6 level from January 2021.

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue^(a)					
Expenses^(a)	-377	-766	-781	-796	-2,720
Capital					
Depreciation					

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses. The expenses row does not include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal?

No.

Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?

Capped.

Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?

No.

Will funding/the cost require indexation?

Included in staff costs.

Who will administer the proposal?

The ACT Human Rights Commission.

How will the proposal be administered?

The Human Rights Commission will allocate the staff according to their identified area of need.

Is the proposal part of a broader package?

Yes: Building Safer Communities <https://greens.org.au/act/building-safer-communities>. Other elements will be costed separately.

Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?

- If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal?
- If yes, please specify the key assumptions.

Staff costs are included.

Will the proposal generate savings or offsets?

No.

Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? Will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?
No.
What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?
The Commission's 2018-19 Annual Report showed that between 2016-17 and 2018-19 there was a 35% increase in complaints overall, and double the number of complaints about services for children and young people. 2018-19 also saw a 30% increase in the number of new clients registered for case coordination under the Victim Services Scheme and a 16% increase in the Financial Assistance Scheme applications.
Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?
No.
What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?
Early 2021
When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.
Early 2021
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
June 2024
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
The broad Building Safer Communities package builds on the existing work and funded programs of Justice and Community Safety Directorate, such as "Reducing Recidivism by 25% by 2025", "Justice Reinvestment", and "Building Communities, Not Prisons".