

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	Backing the front line
Person requesting costing:	Elizabeth Lee MLA
Date of request:	11 October 2024
Summary of proposal:	A Canberra Liberals Government will trial dedicated psychiatric support for the ACT Watch House; establish a full-time clinical support line for GPs; design supports for health and emergency services workers; and establish a workforce fund.
Issue the proposal will address:	Improve the mental health and wellbeing of Canberrans.
Proposal's public announcement details (media release or policy statement published on a party website) ¹ :	Canberra Liberals website – see policy document and media release.

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.

This measure makes the following provisions:

- The employment of a psychiatrist at the ACT Watch House for one year, at the SES 2.1 level.
- The employment of a nurse to provide full-time clinical support hotline for GPs
- \$10 million for a workforce fund.

The design of supports for health and emergency services workers will be funded from existing resources.

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)?

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue ^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses ^(a)	0	-5,551	-5,215	-215	-10,981
Capital ^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation ^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Offset - Expenses ^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Offset -	0	0	0	0	0

¹ As per Part 2, section 5 of the *Election Commitments Costing Act 2012*

Capital^(a)					
Full-time equivalent employees	0	2	1	1	2
(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses, depreciation or capital outflows. A positive number indicates an increase in revenue or decrease in expenses, depreciation or capital inflows. The expenses row is not to include depreciation costs.					
Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal? Please provide links or attach information/data sources referenced.					
No					
Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?					
N/a					
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?					
Third parties will be eligible to apply for workforce grants.					
Will funding/the cost require indexation?					
N/a.					
Who will administer the proposal?					
ACT Health Directorate.					
How will the proposal be administered?					
The Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT Health Directorate will lead these activities: • It will recruit the psychiatrist who will be seconded to the ACT Watch House; • It will recruit and administer the support hotline; • It will undertake the grants program to develop and support the ACT mental health workforce; and • It will undertake the design of supports for health and emergency services workers, in conjunction with ACT Policing, Canberra Health Services, and the Emergency Services Agency.					
Is the proposal part of a broader package? If so, please identify the other elements of the package.					
No.					
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.					
Any administrative expenses associated with the policy will be absorbed by the relevant agencies.					
Will the proposal generate savings or offsets? If so, please quantify any savings or offsets.					
No.					
Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? If so, 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?
This measure will enable policy reforms that improve the mental health and wellbeing of Canberrans.
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?
The Watch House trial will occur in 2025/26. The support hotline will commence in 2025/26. Grants will be distributed over two years (2025/26 and 2026/27). Design work will be undertake in 2025/26 for subsequent implementation.
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.
The hotline is ongoing and the other measures are one-off.
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
N/a.
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
No.