

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	Knowledge Capital – Study Canberra
Person requesting costing:	Andrew Barr MLA
Date of request:	14 October 2020
Summary of proposal:	<p>ACT Labor will provide \$1 million to Study Canberra to promote Canberra as progressive, inclusive and safe to attract new domestic students, and diversify our international student base.</p> <p>Study Canberra will work with our local universities to support the return of international students, who provide such social and cultural enrichment to our city.</p> <p>They will work with our universities to attract local and regional students that are underrepresented in higher education attainment (indigenous, low SES, students living with a disability, etc). This will include considering new pathway programs could be developed or existing pathways that could be modified to better increase participation in these categories.</p> <p>They will also seek to take a more partnered approach with each of the key institutions, reflecting their different offerings, cohort focus and priorities.</p>
Issue the proposal will address:	<p>Universities are vital to the social and economic foundations of our city, providing jobs for thousands of Canberrans and contributing billions of dollars to our local economy and adding to the education capital of the nation.</p> <p>Canberra’s universities have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue because of COVID19 and are faced with an uncertain future of international student enrolments and federal Liberal government student caps and funding cuts.</p> <p>This means Canberrans jobs and our reputation as Australia’s knowledge capital are at risk as funding is cut and research capabilities and pipelines are reduced.</p>

We are committed to supporting our universities and higher education and research sectors to ensure jobs are saved and Canberra continues to be Australia's knowledge capital.

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 is an increase in funding to Study Canberra to re-focus and adjust to the new circumstances of higher education, noting it is one of the largest service exports and employers in the Territory.

The financial profile of the additional funding is outlined below.

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	2024-25	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue^(a)						
Expenses^(a)	-125.0	-250.0	-250.0	-250.0	-125.0	-1,000.0
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?

N/A

Who will administer the proposal?
Economic Development with Study Canberra
How will the proposal be administered?
Study Canberra will undertake revised promotional and marketing activities.
Is the proposal part of a broader package?
Yes – the increased funding for Study Canberra is part of a broader package of commitments that support Canberra’s Universities. The proposal is independent of other commitments.
Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal? – If yes, please specify the key assumptions.
No – any administrative costs will be absorbed.
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?
<p>Our local universities have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. They were left behind by the Federal Liberal Government by not including them in JobKeeper, which has had a huge impact on the future of many Canberra households that rely on these organisations for their income, or their education.</p> <p>ACT Labor is committed to doing everything we can to support our local universities and protect jobs over the coming decade.</p> <p>The increased funding for Study Canberra will support the attraction of students to the Territory’s higher education institutions.</p>
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?
2020-21
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.
2020-21
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
This proposal is funded to 2024-25.
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
No