

## Request for Costing an Election Commitment

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| Name of proposal:                | <b>Better Education Outcomes – Wellness program for Year 3 students</b>  |
| Person requesting costing:       | Alistair Coe MLA   |
| Date of request:                 | 30 September 2020  |
| Summary of proposal:             | A Canberra Liberals Government will deliver a wellness program to all Year 3 students in ACT Government primary schools. |
| Issue the proposal will address: | Assist students with reducing stress, improving concentration, and achieve better educational outcomes.                  |

### 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.

A Canberra Liberals Government will deliver a wellness program to all Year 3 students in ACT Government primary schools. *Smiling Mind* is a program that teaches children to be mindful of their environment, leading to better attention, memory, regulation of emotions and self-awareness. Improvements in these areas can lead to better academic skills, social skills, self-esteem and reduce stress and anxiety.

The program has been successfully trialed in Giralang Primary School since 2015 and is supported by Headspace ACT. The program requires 10 minutes per day and has demonstrated a 95 per cent decrease in negative behaviour. It has also contributed to reduced stress, improved concentration and better educational outcomes.

#### Key assumptions:

- \$1,500 per workshop (2020-21 prices)
- 400 teachers initially training in 2020-21
- A teacher attrition rate of about 10% per annum, with another 40 trained per year from 2021-22

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 |

|   |      |       |       |        |         |
|---|------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| <b>Revenue<sup>(a)</sup></b>  |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Expenses<sup>(a)</sup></b>   | -600 | -60.8 | -61.7 | -62.76 | -785.26 |
| <b>Capital</b>  |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Depreciation</b>   |      |       |       |        |         |
| (a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses. The expenses row does not include depreciation costs.   |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal?</b>   |      |       |       |        |         |
| <p>There are 5889 Year 3 students according to the <a href="#">ACT Schools Census - February 2020</a>. The Student/Teacher ratio fluctuates, but assumed to be approximately 15.</p> <p>The <a href="#">teacher attrition rate</a> is assumed to be approximately 10%, requiring an additional 40 teachers to be trained each year.</p> <p>Further information on Smiling Mind was found on <a href="#">their website</a> and the <a href="#">ACT Council of Parents &amp; Citizens Associations 2019-20 Budget Submission</a>.</p> |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?</b>  |      |       |       |        |         |
| N/A   |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>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?</b>  |      |       |       |        |         |
| N/A   |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Will funding/the cost require indexation?</b>  |      |       |       |        |         |
| Yes. It is assumed that funding would be indexed by CPI.  |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Who will administer the proposal?</b>  |      |       |       |        |         |
| The proposal will be administered by the Education Directorate.   |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>How will the proposal be administered?</b>   |      |       |       |        |         |
| The Education Directorate will contract with Smiling Mind and arrange for the program to be implemented at all schools.   |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Is the proposal part of a broader package?</b>   |      |       |       |        |         |
| This proposal forms part of the Canberra Liberals Policy on Education.  |      |       |       |        |         |
| <b>Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?</b>  |      |       |       |        |         |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal?</li> <li>– If yes, please specify the key assumptions.</li> </ul>                               |
| The Education Directorate will absorb the administrative costs associated with this proposal.  |
| Will the proposal generate savings or offsets?   |
| N/A  |
| 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?  |
| N/A  |
| What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?   |
| At Giralang Primary School where the mindfulness program was implemented, there was a 95% drop in negative student behaviour in 2016, decrease in mental health risks, and a better learning environment for both students and teachers. |
| Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?   |
| Nil.   |
| What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?  |
| 2021 school year.  |
| 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.   |
| It is expected that the teachers will be trained in early 2021 to enable meditation and mindfulness programs to be rolled out across schools during Term 1.  |
| Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?  |
| The proposal is ongoing.   |
| Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?   |
| N/A  |

