



MEDIA RELEASE

28 July 2010

Our Ref: GOV11

**RECEIPT OF REQUEST FOR COSTING OF
ELECTION COMMITMENT**

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has been asked by the Prime Minister to cost the following election commitment under the *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*:

Taking Action to Tackle Suicide – Boosting crisis intervention services.

The costing will be completed in accordance with the *Charter of Budget Honesty: Costing Election Commitments* guidelines issued on 11 June 2010. The guidelines are available at www.electioncostings.gov.au.

The costing request is attached to this media release. A further media release will be issued when the costing has been completed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Tune'.

David Tune
Secretary
Department of Finance and Deregulation

Contact: Clive Hawkins
Telephone: 02 6215 3929

Name of policy	Taking Action to Tackle Suicide - Boosting crisis intervention services
Person requesting costing (Prime Minister/Leader of the Opposition):	Prime Minister
Date of public release of policy:	27 July 2010
Date of request to cost the policy:	28 July 2010
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	A re-elected Gillard Government will invest \$74.3 million in direct suicide prevention activities – including counselling services, training for frontline community workers in suicide awareness, securing suicide ‘hotspots’, and supporting communities, including school communities, affected by suicide.
Intention of policy:	To provide more support to those at greatest risk of suicide.
Description of policy	
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy including:	
Please note that where the request to cost a proposal differs from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of information provided in the costing request.	
Is the policy part of a package? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, list and outline components and interactions with proposed or existing policies. 	Yes – Taking Action to Tackle Suicide
Where relevant, is funding for the policy to be demand driven or a capped amount?	The amount of funding available will be capped.
Will third parties, for instance the States/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the policy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, is the Australian Government contribution capped, with additional costs to 	Community and Non-government organisations will assist in delivering the policy

be met by third parties, or is another funding formula envisaged?	
<p>Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, please provide details. 	NA
Description of policy (continued)	
What are the key assumptions that have been made in the policy including:	
<p>Does the policy relate to a previous budget measure?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, which measure? 	The measures build on the Government National Health and Hospital Reforms.
<p>If the proposal would change an existing measure, are savings expected from the departmental costs of implementing the program. Will funding/cost require indexation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, list factors used. 	NA
<p>What are the estimated costs each year? Are these provided on a cash or fiscal basis?</p>	<p>The estimated impact on the underlying cash and fiscal balance is:</p> <p>2010-11: \$ 0.4 million</p> <p>2011-12: \$ 23.0 million</p> <p>2012-13: \$ 25.4 million</p> <p>2013-14: \$25.5 million</p>

<p>What assumptions have been made in deriving the expected financial impact in the party costing (please provide information on the data sources used to develop the policy)?</p>	<p>Boosting the capacity of crisis hotlines, including Lifeline (\$18.1m) The Government will provide an additional \$18.1 million over three years from 1 July 2011 (\$6.05 million per annum) to Lifeline Australia to increase the capacity of their support hotlines.</p> <p>‘Mental health first aid’ training: for frontline community workers (\$6.1m) \$0.2 million will be provided in 2010-11, \$1.2 million in 2011-12, \$2.4 million in 2012-13 and \$2.4 million in 2013-14 to train front line community workers to better identify and respond to the needs of people at risk of suicide or who have attempted suicide.</p> <p>This initiative will provide funding for “mental health first aid” training in up to 40 regions around Australia.</p> <p>Improving safety at ‘hotspots’ (\$9.0m) The Government will provide \$3 million per annum from 2011-12 for local governments to improve safety and infrastructure at notable suicide ‘hotspots’, such as the Gap in Sydney – for example by improving fencing barriers, night lighting, and closed circuit television monitors.</p> <p>Outreach teams to schools (\$18.7m) The Government will provide \$18.7 million over from 2011-12 (\$6.2 million in 2011-12, \$6.3 million in 2012-13 and \$6.2 million in 2013-14) to fund a nationwide network of mental health promotion officers, provide outreach services from local headspace sites or local psychology services, to work with government and non-government school-based mental health workers and provide counselling and other support to school communities.</p> <p>Supporting communities to reduce risk of suicide (\$22.4m) A re-elected Gillard Labor Government will provide \$22.4 million over the forward estimates (\$0.2 million in 2010-11, \$6.6 million in 2011-12, \$7.8 million in 2012-13 and \$7.9 million in 2013-14) to support community-led suicide prevention activities – targeted at groups and communities which are at high risk of suicide, including Indigenous people, men, gay, lesbian and bisexual people, and families and colleagues recently bereaved by suicide.</p>
<p>Has the policy been costed by a third party?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions? 	<p>NA</p>

<p>What is the expected community impact of the policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people will be affected by the policy? • What is the likely take up? • What is the basis for these impact assessments/assumptions? 	<p>The policy will provide more support for people at risk of suicide, and it is expected that the funding allocated will be fully utilised under the plan.</p>
<p>NOTE: it will be up to the professional judgment of the relevant Secretary as to whether these assumptions are adopted in a Treasury or Finance costing of the policy.</p>	

Administration of policy	
How will the policy be administered: who will administer the policy (for example, Australian Government Agency, States, non-government agency)?	The policy would be administered by the Department of Health and Ageing.
<p>Should Departmental expenses associated with this policy be included in this costing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If no, will the Department be expected to absorb expenses associated with this policy? • If yes, please specify the key assumptions, including whether Departmental costs are expected with respect to program management (by policy agencies) and additional transactions/processing (by service delivery agencies). 	Departmental costs would be absorbed by the relevant portfolio.
Intended date of implementation.	1 January 2011
Intended duration of policy.	Ongoing
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	NA
List major data sources utilised to develop policy (for example, ABS cat. no. 3201.0).	NA
Are there any other assumptions that need to be considered?	NA