



5 August 2010

Our Ref: GOV12

## **RELEASE OF COSTING OF ELECTION COMMITMENT**

The Secretary to the Department of Finance and Deregulation today released the following election commitment costing under the *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*:

**Taking Action to Tackle Suicide – Targeting men who are at greater risk of suicide – but least likely to seek help** as announced by the Government.

This costing was completed consistent with the *Charter of Budget Honesty: Costing Election Commitments* guidelines which are available on [www.electioncostings.gov.au](http://www.electioncostings.gov.au).  
A copy of the completed costing is attached.

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

David Tune  
Secretary  
Department of Finance and Deregulation

Contact: Clive Hawkins  
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# PUBLIC RELEASE OF 2010 ELECTION COMMITMENT COSTING

**Summary of costing:** New and additional funding will be provided for more mental health services and programs targeted at men.

Additional funding will be provided to beyondblue for:

1. Expanding the National Workplace Program; and
2. Increasing the capacity of telephone helplines for men by 30,000 per year.

Funding will also be provided for:

3. A targeted national campaign for men's mental health.

**Person making the request:** Prime Minister

**Date of request:** 28 July, 2010

**Name of policy to be costed:** Taking Action to Tackle Suicide – Targeting men who are at greatest risk of suicide – but least likely to seek help

**Date of public release of policy:** Tuesday 27 July, 2010

**Costing request provided by the Prime Minister/Leader of the Opposition:** Prime Minister

**Additional information requested (including date):** Not applicable.

**Additional information received (including date):** Not applicable.

## Financial implications (outturn prices)<sup>(a)</sup>

Impact on	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Underlying Cash Balance (\$m)	-3.1	-6.7	-6.7	-6.7
Fiscal Balance (\$m)	-3.1	-6.7	-6.7	-6.7

(a) A positive number for the fiscal balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in accrual terms. A positive number for the underlying cash balance indicates an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenses or net capital investment in cash terms.

**Where relevant, state that the proposal has been costed as a defined or specified amount.**

The first and third components – 'Expanding the National Workplace Program' and 'A targeted national campaign for men's health' – have been costed as capped grants totalling the specified amounts of \$11.0 million and \$9.0 million over four years respectively.

The second component – ‘Increasing the capacity of telephone helplines for men by 30,000 per year’ – has been costed based on an additional 30,000 telephone helpline services being available each year.

The funding will be provided over four years from 2010-11. The program will commence on 1 January 2011.

**Where relevant, include separate identification of revenue and expense components.**

There are no revenue components.

**Where appropriate, include a range for the costing or sensitivity analysis.**

Not applicable.

**Qualifications to the costing (including reasons for the costing not being comprehensive).**

Not applicable.

**Where relevant, explain effects of departmental expenses.**

Not applicable.

**Where relevant, explain the reason for any significant differences between the assumptions specified in a party costing request and those used in a Treasury or Finance costing.**

Not applicable.

**Other comments** *(including reasons for significant differences between the estimated impact on the fiscal and underlying cash balances).*

Not applicable.

## **Background information**

### **Costing methodology used:**

- **Costing techniques**

Additional funding for the second component – ‘Increasing the capacity of telephone helplines for men by 30,000 per year’ – was based on a number of components:

- Counsellors and senior clinicians
- Additional office space
- Additional call costs (assuming costs are free to the caller)
- ICT telecommunications infrastructure

For each of these components, the quantity required for an additional 30,000 telephone helpline services was multiplied by the cost for each component.

Funding for the second component – ‘Increasing the capacity of telephone helplines for men by 30,000 per year’ – is expected to cost \$3.2 million over four years and will provide up to 30,000 additional telephone helpline services per year.

- **Policy parameters.**

Costs for the second component - ‘Increasing the capacity of telephone helplines for men by 30,000 per year’ – includes indexation for relevant components and were based on the existing Government program, *Farm Social Support* as a part of the *Pilot of Drought Reform Measures in Western Australia* announced in the 2010-11 Budget.

- **Statistical data used.**

Data available on the Lifeline website about the average call duration was used.

Costs for beyondblue to increase the capacity for telephone helplines for men are based on an additional 30,000 telephone helpline services being available each year.

**Behavioural assumptions used (as appropriate).**

Not applicable.