



ACOSS Paper 156 | June 2008

Australian
Council of
Social Service

ACOSS Federal Budget Briefing 2008

ACOSS PAPER 156
June 2008

First published in June 2008 by the
Australian Council of Social Service
Locked Bag 4777
Strawberry Hills, NSW, 2012 Australia
Ph 02 9310 6200
Fax 02 9310 4822
Email: info@acoss.org.au
Website: www.acoss.org.au

ISBN 85871 833 2
ISSN 1326 7124

This publication is copyright. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism, or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquiries should be addressed to the Publications Officer, Australian Council of Social Service. Copies are available from the address above.

© Australian Council of Social Service, 2008

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Tax measures	4
Taxation	7
Indigenous Affairs	11
Education, Employment, Workplace Relations and Social Inclusion	19
Families, Housing and Community Services	24
Health and Ageing	35
Human Services	41
Climate Change	42
Immigration and Citizenship	43

Overview

ACOSS has prepared this briefing on the 2008-09 Federal Budget. This paper explains the funding announcements made in the Budget in relevant areas of interest to ACOSS members. It does not offer extensive comment on the merit of these measures. It is intended to assist member organisations in their work.

For ease of analysis, at times the Budget announcements are set out by population group, even where this crosses Government portfolios. Revenue and expenditure measures are also set out under relevant portfolios, which explain why some programs are repeated. These include policy decisions announced on Budget night and those already announced beforehand (including many of the election promises).

Major initiatives¹

Major policy decisions are listed below under three headings – expenditure measures, tax measures and savings measures. Their cost or saving to the Budget is indicated in brackets.

Expenditure measures

Indigenous

- Indigenous services including \$90m for child and maternity health services, \$128m for teachers and boarding colleges in the NT, \$56m for literacy programs, and \$75m to expand the welfare and employment elements of the NT intervention.

Education Employment, Workplace Relations & Social Inclusion

- Skilling Australia – 630,000 vocational education and training places including 238,000 for job seekers (\$1.9b) offset by abolition of Work Skills Voucher program (-\$778m)
- Changes to employment services including more targeting of support to the most disadvantaged job seekers, better links with training, more flexible services, a new compliance system (-\$370m)
- Guaranteed access to pre school education for 15 hours a week for all 4 year olds (\$534m)
- Increase in Child Care Tax Rebate from 30% to 50% of child care costs (\$1.6b), capital funding for new child care services in schools (\$115m)

¹ Unless specified, costings are over the next four or five years, 'm' refers to millions and 'b' refers to billions.

- A 50% Education Tax Refund for educational costs (mainly computers) of up to \$750 p.a. for each primary school child and \$1,500 p.a. for each secondary school student for families eligible for Family Tax Benefit (Part A), including families that don't pay tax (\$4.4b)
- National Action Plan for Literacy and Numeracy – more resources for schools (\$577m) offset by abolition of Literacy vouchers program (-\$465m)
- Funding for schools to upgrade IT facilities (\$1.2b) and improve trade training (\$993m)
- Establishment of Social Inclusion Unit and Board (\$16m)

Families, Housing & Community Services

- National Rental Affordability Scheme – tax rebates for investors in low cost rental housing (\$623m)
- Social housing for homeless people (\$150m)
- Housing affordability fund for new developments (\$512m)
- Utilities Allowance for Age pensioners to increase from \$107p.a. to \$500p.a. and to be extended to DSP, Carer Payment and service pension recipients (but not to Parenting Payment or Newstart Allowance recipients), Senior's concessions allowance to also increase from \$218p.a. to \$500p.a.
- Lump sum bonus payments of \$500 to \$1,000 to pensioners, seniors and carers to be maintained (\$1.8b)
- Extension of Carer Payment to 19,000 more carers of children with disabilities (\$274m)
- Pilot schemes to quarantine income support payments for children at risk (in WA) and not attending school regularly (in the NT) (\$36m)
- Supported accommodation for people with disabilities whose carers are ageing (\$100m)

Health

- Public hospitals – general increase in funding (\$1b) and funds to reduce elective surgery waiting lists (\$600m)
- Funding to the States and Territories under a new Commonwealth Dental Health program to improve public dental services (\$290m), and dental check ups for teenagers (\$491m), offset by abolition of Medicate items for dental treatment (-\$491m)
- More aged care beds to relieve pressure on hospitals (\$158m), establishment of GP 'super clinics' (\$220m), cancer plan (\$0.5b)
- Adjustment payments to aged care providers (\$408m)

Other portfolios

- Three new long-term infrastructure funds: Building Australia (\$20b), Education (\$5b), and Health (\$10b)
- Low emission plan for renters – rebates of 30% of costs of insulation paid to landlords (\$150m)
- Water initiatives - including desalination plants and water efficiency measures in various cities, and irrigation improvements in Victoria (\$1.5b)

Tax measures

- *Personal Income Tax Cuts* - (\$28.7b over 4 years)²
Staged over 3 years. Key changes from 1 July 2008 are that:
 - the Low Income Tax Offset (LITO) will increase from \$750 to \$1,200 and begin to phase out (at 4 cents per dollar of additional income) from \$30,000 rather than \$25,000. It will not phase out entirely until taxable income reaches about \$60,000
 - the 30 per cent threshold will increase from \$30,001 to \$34,000
 - the 40 per cent threshold will increase from \$75,000 to \$80,000
 - the 45 per cent threshold will increase from \$150,000 to \$180,000
- First Home Savers Accounts – the first \$5,000 per year saved to attract a 17% rebate of tax, and interest on the accounts to be taxed at a flat 15% (\$1.2b)
- An easing of the income test for the Medicare Levy surcharge for high income earners without private health insurance, from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for singles, and from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for couples (\$660m)

Savings measures

- Tighter tax compliance for high wealth individuals and large businesses (\$2b)
- Increase in luxury car tax (\$555m)
- Tighter income testing of Family Tax Benefit – income test on primary earner at \$150,000 and broader definition of income, and FTB can no longer be claimed through the tax office (\$857m)
- Income testing of Baby Bonus at \$150,000 family income (\$355m)
- Income test for primary earner receiving Dependent Spouse Tax Offset, at \$150,000 (\$125m)
- Broader definitions of income (e.g. rental losses, salary sacrificed amounts) to apply to some income-tested tax offsets (e.g. superannuation co-contribution, Senior Australians Tax Offset) (\$109m)
- Tighter exemptions for Fringe Benefits Tax – e.g. meal cards and laptops (\$1.4b)
- Higher excises on alcoholic beverages (\$3.1b)
- Lower depreciation allowances for computer software (\$1.3b)
- Higher crude oil excise for oil produced from natural gas (\$2.5b)
- Not proceeding with Access Card (\$1.2b)

² \$34b already budgeted by the Coalition, minus \$5.3b in savings by deferring top end tax cuts.

- Fraud & compliance measures – income support, mainly checking incomes (\$589m)
- Public service 'efficiency dividends' (\$1.8b)

The effects of spending and savings measures on the Budget surplus

The Budget surplus for 2008-09 is \$21.7b, which is \$7.4b higher than estimated in November 2007. This increase in the surplus is due to a \$5.4b boost from changed economic forecasts (especially the effects of the mining boom on tax revenues) and a \$2b boost from decisions announced in the Budget. This \$2b from Budget decisions comprises \$5.3b in new expenditure, offset by \$7.3b in savings measures (on both the tax and expenditure sides of the Budget).

Note that the tax cuts were already brought to budget in 2007 (see note above) so their cost is not included – only the savings from not proceeding with top-end tax cuts budgeted by the previous Government.

Effect of Budget spending and savings measures on the budget surplus³

Category of budget measures	Cost in 2008-09
<i>Budget surplus forecast in November 2007</i>	
	\$14.32b
<i>Spending measures included in the Budget</i>	
Tax	(\$13m)
Expenditure	\$5.27b
Sub total – spending measures	\$5.26b
<i>COST measures included in the Budget</i>	
Tax	\$1.92b
Expenditure	\$5.34b
Sub total – COST measures	\$7.26b
<i>Effects of Budget measures and changed economic forecasts since November 2007 *</i>	
Effects of revenue and expenditure measures in the Budget ⁴	\$1.996b
Effects on tax and expenditures of changed economic forecasts since November 2007 ⁵	\$5.34b
Budget surplus forecast in May 2008	\$21.7b

³ Source: Budget Paper No 1. * Effect of measures announced between November 2007 and Budget night 2008.

⁴ Expenditure measures minus savings measures, as above.

⁵ Mainly higher tax revenues from the mining boom.

Budget outcomes

The Budget surplus for 2008-09 is estimated to be \$21.7b or 1.8% of GDP. This exceeds the Government's target of a surplus of 1.5% of GDP.

Budget outcomes

	2007-08 (\$b)	2008-09 (\$b)	2009-10 (\$b)	2010-11 (\$b)
Revenue	304	320	337	351
(% of GDP)	26.9%	25.9%	26.2%	26.2%
Expenditure	281	293	311	323
(% of GDP)	24.9%	23.8%	24.2%	24.1%
Fiscal balance	20.4	23.1	22.4	23.3
(% of GDP)	1.8%	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%
Underlying cash balance	16.8	21.7	19.7	19.0
(% of GDP)	1.5%	1.8%	1.5%	1.4%

Source: Budget Paper No 1. Notes: Fiscal Balance refers to the surplus or deficit calculated on an accruals basis, Underlying cash balance refers to the same outcomes calculated on a cash basis, excluding major capital items.

Estimates for key economic indicators

Economic growth and inflation are forecast to decline moderately next year. Unemployment is expected to increase slightly. Wages are expected to grow at the same rate.

Estimates for key economic indicators

	2007-08	2008-09
Gross domestic product	3.5%	2.75%
Employment	2.5%	1.25%
Unemployment **	4.25%	4.5%
Consumer price index	4.0%	3.5%
Wage cost index	4.25%	4.25%

Source: Budget Paper No 1. Notes: ** Average level during the year

Taxation

Summary

Tax cuts are budgeted for the majority of tax-payers from July 2008. More tax cuts are budgeted for 2009 and 2010.

Their estimated cost is \$28.7b over 4 years.⁶

From 1 July 2008:

- the Low Income Tax Offset (LITO) will increase from \$750 to \$1,200, and begin to phase out from \$30,000 rather than \$25,000
- the 30 per cent threshold will increase from \$30,001 to \$34,000
- the 40 per cent threshold will increase from \$75,000 to \$80,000
- the 45 per cent threshold will increase from \$150,000 to \$180,000.

Tax cuts

2007-08		2008-09	
Tax thresholds	Tax rates	Tax thresholds	Tax rates
0 - 6,000	0%	0 - 6,000	0%
6,001 – 30,000	15%	6,001 – 34,000	15%
30,001 – 75,000	30%	34,001 – 80,000	30%
75,001 – 150,000	40%	80,001 – 180,000	40%
150,001+	45%	180,001+	45%
LITO: \$750 up to \$25,000		LITO: \$1,200 up to \$30,000	

⁶ \$34b already budgeted by the Coalition, minus \$5.3b in savings by deferring top end tax cuts.

Effects of the tax cuts on disposable incomes

Government estimates of income gains for individuals and families from tax cuts and changes to Low Income Tax Offset in 2008-09 are presented below.

Effects of the tax cuts on disposable incomes

Private Income (per annum)	Increase in income (\$pw in 08-09)
\$0* (jobless)	0
\$20,000	8.65
\$30,000	8.65
\$40,000	20.19
\$50,000	19.23
\$75,000	11.54
\$100,000	21.15
\$150,000	21.15
\$200,000	50.00

Source: Budget Papers and *ACOSS Calculations

Item	Description	Comments
Income Tax Cuts COST 2009-10: \$1.2b 2010-11: \$2b 2011-12: \$2.2b Total: \$5.3b * Actual cost of tax cuts is \$28.7b over 4 years (\$34b already budgeted by the Coalition, minus \$5.3b)	Revised income tax cuts	The tax cuts were already brought to budget by the Coalition Government. last year so their full cost is not included in the Budget. The impact of the new Government's changes is to reduce their cost by \$5.3b by removing some top end tax cuts.
First Home Savers Accounts COST 2008-09: \$146m 2009-10: \$211m 2010-11: \$261m 2011-12: \$308 Total: \$1.2b	The first \$5,000 per year saved in First Home Saver Accounts will attract a 17% Government contribution and interest on the accounts will be taxed at a flat 15%. Personal contributions can be made up to \$75,000 altogether.	The flat 17% contribution is a significant change from the original scheme, in which those on the highest tax rate received a larger contribution per dollar contributed.

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Medicare Levy Surcharge</p> <p>COST 2009-10: \$195m 2010-11: \$235m 2011-12: \$230m Total: \$660m</p>	<p>An easing of the income test for the Medicare Levy surcharge for high income earners without private health insurance, from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for singles, and from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for couples.</p>	<p>People on these income levels will no longer need to take out private health insurance in order to avoid paying the surcharge.</p>
<p>Tighter Exemptions For Fringe Benefits Tax</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$164m 2009-10: \$320m 2010-11: \$425m 2011-12: \$520m Total: \$1.4b</p>	<p>Removal of exemptions from FTB for such items as meal cards and laptops mainly for private use.</p>	
<p>Tax Compliance For High Wealth Individuals And Large Businesses</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$105m 2009-10: \$ 295m 2010-11: \$785m 2011-12: \$795m Total: \$2b</p>	<p>Tighter tax compliance for high wealth individuals and large businesses.</p>	
<p>Increase In Luxury Car Tax</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$130m 2009-10: \$140m 2010-11: \$140m 2011-12: \$145m Total: \$555m</p>	<p>The rate of luxury car tax will increase from 25% to 33%.</p>	
<p>Lower Depreciation Allowances For Computer Software</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$15m 2009-10: \$300m 2010-11: \$681m 2011-12: \$318m Total: \$1.3b</p>	<p>An increase in the period over which software is depreciated to 4 years.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Income Testing Of Certain Tax Offsets</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$6m 2009-10: \$28m 2010-11: \$54m 2011-12: \$21m Total: \$109m</p>	<p>The Dependent Spouse Tax Offset will be income tested once the main earner's income exceeds \$150,000; the income tests for other Tax Offsets such as the Senior Australians Tax Offset will be tightened to include such income as salary sacrifice amounts and rental losses.</p>	<p>The \$150,000 limit also applies to Family Tax Benefit Part B for single income families with children; the extended definition of income already extends to various transfer payments including Family Tax Benefit.</p>

Indigenous Affairs

Item	Description	Comments
Health Closing the Gap		
<p>Child and maternal health services</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$0.8m 2008-09: \$9.9m 2009-10: \$20.3m 2010-11: \$27.1m 2011-12: \$32.3m Total: 90.3m</p>	<p>Government will provide \$90.3m over 5 years for national coverage of child and maternal health services to Indigenous Australians.</p>	<p>A contribution of \$75m will be sought from State and Territory Governments. This measure delivers on an election commitment.</p>
<p>Reducing rheumatic heart fever for Indigenous children</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$0.1m 2008-09: \$1.6m 2009-10: \$3.1m 2010-11: \$3.2m 2011-12: \$3.2m Total: \$11.2m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$11.2m over 5 years to establish a national unit to coordinate efforts to tackle Rheumatic Heart Fever among Indigenous children, and establish program sites in the NT, WA and Qld.</p>	<p>This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.</p>
<p>Indigenous drug and alcohol services</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$4.0m 2009-10: \$10.4m 2010-11: \$17.0m 2011-12: \$18.0m Total: \$49.3m</p>	<p>Government will provide \$49.3m over 4 years to expand drug and alcohol rehabilitation and treatment services for Indigenous Australians, especially in remote areas.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
Bringing Them Home counsellors COST 2007-08: \$0.5m 2008-09: \$4.4m 2009-10: \$5.9m 2010-11: \$5.0m Total: \$15.7m	\$15.7m over four years for extra Bringing Them Home Counsellors and link-up services.	14/9/2007
Education		
Funding for teachers in NT Indigenous communities COST 2007-08: \$3.8m 2008-09: \$11.6m 2009-10: \$20.0m 2010-11: \$29.0m 2011-12: \$34.4m Total: \$98.8m	The Government will commit \$98.8m over five years to provide extra funding for 200 additional teachers for the 2,000 Aboriginal children who are not enrolled in school in the 73 “prescribed communities” in the Northern Territory.	This measure delivers on the Government’s election commitment.
Expansion of intensive literacy and numeracy programs and individual learning plans COST 2008-09: \$8.1m 2009-10: \$16.1m 2010-11: \$16.1m 2011-12: \$16.1m Total: \$56.4m	Government will provide \$56.4m over 4 years to expand intensive literacy and numeracy programs in schools and to support teachers to develop individual learning plans for every Indigenous student for every year of schooling up to Year 10.	Funding of \$51.5m will be provided by redirection of funds from <i>Realising our Potential – Summer Schools for Teachers Program</i> . This measure delivers on the Government’s election commitment.
Contribution to Indigenous boarding colleges COST 2008-09: \$18.8m 2009-10: \$5.1m 2010-11: \$2.5m 2011-12: \$2.5m Total: \$28.9m	The Government will invest \$28.9m over four years towards the cost of building and operating 3 new boarding colleges for secondary students in the Northern Territory in years 8-12.	An additional contribution of \$15m toward construction costs will be provided by the Indigenous Land Corporation. This measure delivers on the Government’s election commitment.

Item	Description	Comments
Children, youth and families		
Indigenous early development and learning services – parenting services COST 2007-08: \$0.6m 2008-09: \$3.1m 2009-10: \$4.8m 2010-11: \$8.1m Total: \$16.6 m	The Government will provide \$16.6m over four years for additional early childhood and informal parenting services for Indigenous children and their families across Australia.	This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.
Indigenous mothers accommodation fund COST 2008-09: \$2m 2009-10: \$4m 2010-11: \$4m Total: \$10m	The Government will provide \$10m over 3 years to establish new hostels and expand existing accommodation in cities and regional centres to assist Indigenous women needing to leave their communities temporarily to have their babies.	This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.
Employment and welfare		
Australian Public Service Indigenous Employment Strategy – continuation COST 2008-09: \$2.6m	Government will provide \$2.6m in 2008-09 to continue the Indigenous employment strategy.	
Indigenous Data		
Closing the Evidence Gap COST 2008-09: \$1.1m 2009-10: \$0.6m Total: \$1.7m	The Government will provide \$1.7m over 2 years to address data gaps in relation to Indigenous outcomes to help improve Indigenous policy making.	

Item	Description	Comments
Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER)		
Measures initiated under the Northern Territory Emergency Response will continue in 2008-09. In total, \$426.6m is provided for the Northern Territory over five years (the majority of this funding, more than \$320m, is allocated to 2008-09). Ongoing funding requirements are to be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and be based on the evaluation due to be completed by the end of the year. In the meantime, provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.		
Northern Territory – government business managers COST 2008-09: \$30.8m	The Government will provide \$30.8m in 2008-09 for government business managers in NT communities to coordinate the Emergency Response in local communities.	Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.
Northern Territory – leadership and coordination COST 2008-09: \$32.4m	The Government will provide \$32.4m in 2008-09 for continued management and coordination of activities in the NT. Includes funding for the coordination of the NT Emergency Response Taskforce, an independent review of the NTER, policy, planning and logistics support and a community capability fund.	Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.
Northern Territory – Playgroups COST 2008-09: \$0.7m	The Government will provide \$0.7m in 2008-09 to support playgroups in the NT. The playgroups will provide 190 Indigenous children with structured learning through play-based activities.	Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Northern Territory – promoting law and order</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$11.6m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$11.6m to continue a range of law and order activities. This measure includes funding for ancillary cost of deploying 66 AFP officers, activities supporting restrictions on alcohol and helping restrict pornography.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – youth alcohol diversion</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$9.5m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$9.5m in 2008-09 to support activities which are an alternative to drinking and other substance abuse. This measure will enable the establishment and operation of a NT Regional Youth Development Network.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – Centrelink’s role</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$4.2m <i>Related capital: \$1.6m</i></p>	<p>Government will provide \$5.8m in 2008-09 to continue and enhance Centrelink’s service delivery capability in the Northern Territory</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has already been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – crèches</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$2.3m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$2.3m in 2008-09 to fund the operating expenses of ten crèches in the NT.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has already been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – extension of the National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Intelligence Task Force</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$4.2m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$4.2m in 2008-09 to the Australian Crime Commission to sustain the National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Intelligence Task Force special investigation in the NT for another year.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has already been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Legal assistance for Indigenous Australians</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$2m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$2m in 2008-09 to continue funding for additional legal aid services in support of the NTER.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Night Patrol Operational Services</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$17.7m</p>	<p>Government will provide \$17.7m in 2008-09 to fund night patrol services in identified NT communities. The Department currently funds services in 73 communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – Further welfare and employment reform</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$49.5m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$75.5m over 2 years to continue employment services and pre-employment programs in the NT.</p>	<p>In addition to the \$49.5m from FaHCSIA, funding and savings are also derived from DEEWR and the Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – income management</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$5.5m 2008-09: \$63.7m Total: \$69.2 m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$69.2m over 2 years to continue income management as part of the NTER. Includes the introduction of income debit cards and the continuation of licensing arrangements for community stores.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p> <p>Funding provided by FaHCSIA and DHS.</p>
<p>Enhancing Education in the NT</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$19.1m</p>	<p>Government will provide \$19.1m in 2008-09 as part of enhanced education package for the NT to provide professional development for teachers and additional classrooms.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Closing the Gap – Northern Territory – Follow Up Care</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$13.6m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$13.6m in 2008-09 to provide follow-up care to address health problems identified through the child health checks delivered as part of the NTER.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – Family support package</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$9.8m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$9.8m in 2008-09 to support safe houses established in 15 communities. It will also provide support for a mobile child protection team and Indigenous family and community workers to operate in remote areas with high needs.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>School nutrition</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$7.4m</p>	<p>Government will provide \$7.4m in 2008-09 for a school nutrition program. This funding is part of an education package for the NT and aims to improve school attendance, student performance and health.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – Community Engagement</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$3.8m</p>	<p>This measure includes funding to facilitate community input into the implementation of the Emergency Response through regional consultation.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>
<p>Northern Territory – continuation of early childhood program</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$0.4m</p>	<p>Continuation of funding of four early childhood centres in the Northern Territory.</p>	<p>Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.</p>

Item	Description	Comments
Aboriginal interpreter service COST 2008-09: \$0.8m	Government will provide \$0.8m in 2008-09 for Indigenous interpreter services in support of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER).	Ongoing funding requirements for the NTER will be reviewed prior to the 2009-10 Budget and will be based on the evaluation. Provision has been made in the Contingency Reserve for ongoing costs associated with the Emergency Response.

Education, Employment, Workplace Relations and Social Inclusion

Item	Description	Comments
Employment services		
New Employment Services system COST 2008-09: \$114m 2009-10: -\$41m 2010-11: -\$294m 2011-12: -\$313m Total: -\$534m	Changes to employment services tenders including placement of job seekers into 4 streams of services based on disadvantage, work experience after 12 months in a 'stream', more access to VET training, replacing multiple contracts with a single contract (except disability employment services), a \$41m innovation fund, a compliance system based on a no show-no-pay principle and re-engagement rather than automatic 8 week penalties.	This is consistent with ACOSS' calls for a more flexible system based on assessment of disadvantage, more access to training, less emphasis on a standard sequence of requirements and services, and an easing of penalties.
Abolish employment entry payment COST 2008-09: -\$29m 2009-10: -\$31m 2010-11: -\$31m 2011-12: -\$31m Total: -\$124m	The employment entry payment for former income support recipients will be abolished.	This small payment (\$104, or \$312 for people with disabilities and parents) is to help long-term unemployed people on income support who get a job with immediate expenses such as clothes, transport and tools.
Employment programs for Indigenous people in the NT COST 2008-09: \$66m Total: \$75m	Investment in employment programs under the continuation of the NT intervention (subject to review in later years).	

Item	Description	Comments
Education and Skills		
<p>Productivity Places</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$33m 2009-10: \$233m 2010-11: \$620m 2011-12: \$620m Total: \$1.9b</p>	<p>The Government will fund 630,000 vocational education and training places over the next 4 years, including 238,000 places targeted to job seekers. Training will be at AQTF II and III level (just below trade qualifications). An independent statutory body 'Skills Australia', and Industry Skills Councils will allocate places to Registered Training Organisations according to skills in demand. Job seekers will be referred for training by employment service providers.</p>	<p>Replaces the Work Skills Vouchers program in which workers and job seekers with low skills applied for vouchers to purchase vocational education and training, generally at AQTF Level II.</p> <p>Number of places increased from 450,000 (175,000 for jobless people) in election commitment.</p>
<p>Work Skills Vouchers abolition</p> <p>COST 2007-08: -\$16m 2008-09: -\$190m 2009-10: -\$190m 2010-11: -\$191m 2011-12: \$191m Total: -\$778m</p>	<p>The previous Government's Work Skills Vouchers program which funded VET places for low skilled workers and job seekers, will be abolished.</p>	<p>These funds are being rolled into Productivity Places.</p>
<p>JET child care assistance</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$8m 2009-10: \$7m 2010-11: \$5m 2011-12: \$5m Total: \$24m</p>	<p>Extend JET Child Care fee assistance to students in courses of up to 2 years.</p>	<p>Currently, parents on income support who engage in approved courses can only receive this support for the first year</p>
<p>Digital education revolution</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$100m 2008-09: \$400m 2009-10: \$300m 2010-11: \$200m 2011-12: \$200m Total: \$1.2b</p>	<p>Capital grants to government and non government schools to invest in information technology for Year 9 to 12 students, including fast broadband connections.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Preschool places</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$14m 2008-09: \$40m 2009-10: \$80m 2010-11: \$100m 2011-12: \$300m Total: \$534m</p>	<p>Every four year old child to be entitled to fifteen hours a week and 40 weeks a year of preschool education delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher</p>	<p>This will be a legislated entitlement.</p>
<p>Trade Training Centres in schools</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$233m 2009-10: \$243m 2010-11: \$253m 2011-12: \$264m Total: \$993m</p>	<p>The Government will grant between \$0.5m and \$1.5m to each secondary school to build or upgrade Trades Training Centres (e.g. trade workshops, information, communications and technology labs), guarantee access to one day a week of on-the-job training for 20 weeks a year for all VET-in-Schools students from Year 9 to Year 12; job ready certificates for successful trade training students, an Enterprise and Career Education Foundation to encourage innovation in VET programs in schools.</p>	
<p>National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$96m 2009-10: \$158m 2010-11: \$161m 2011-12: \$164m Total: \$579m</p>	<p>Funding to the States and Territories and non Government schools for additional literacy and numeracy support including teacher training and individual student support.</p>	<p>Offset by abolition of the National Literacy and Numeracy vouchers program (below).</p>
<p>Abolition of Literacy and Numeracy vouchers program</p> <p>COST 2008-09: -\$61m 2009-10: -\$132m 2010-11: -\$135m 2011-12: -\$137m Total: -\$465m</p>	<p>Abolition of National Literacy and Numeracy vouchers program.</p>	<p>Savings are being rolled into the National Action Plan on Literacy and Numeracy (above).</p>

Item	Description	Comments
Home Interaction Program COST 2008-09: \$3m 2009-10: \$6m 2010-11: \$8m 2011-12: \$10m Total: \$27m	The Home Interaction Program, in which instructors visit parents at home every two weeks to provide personal mentoring and tutoring assistance and support for 3-5 year olds, will be rolled out nationally to 3,000 children through funding to the Brotherhood of St Laurence	
Abolition of full fee university degrees COST 2008-09: \$18m 2009-10: \$50m 2010-11: \$78m 2011-12: \$104m Total: \$354m	From 2009, full fee degrees for domestic students will be phased out. To offset income losses for universities, funds will be provided up to 2011 for an additional 11,000 Commonwealth Supported Places.	
Child care		
Additional child care centres COST 2008-09: \$46 2009-10: \$32 2010-11: \$18 2011-12: \$19 Total: \$115m	38 new child care centres - operational by 2010 including 6 early intervention centres for children with autism. This is first phase of the Government's commitment to establishing 260 new centres. The remaining 222 will be funded through COAG.	This is principally funded through DEEWR with some monies coming from FaHCSIA. The centres are to be established in schools.
Child care tax rebate – Affordable Child Care Plan COST 2008-09: \$340m 2009-10: \$376m 2010-11: \$410m 2011-12: \$445m Total: \$1.6b	The Child Care Tax Rebate to rise from 30 per cent to 50 per cent (covering up to \$7,500 of out-of-pocket costs per child), and be paid every three months rather than once a year.	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>University places in early childhood education</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$2m 2009-10: \$8m 2010-11: \$17m 2011-12: \$26m Total: \$54m</p>	<p>500 additional places from 2009 to 2011.</p>	
<p>Eliminate TAFE fees for child care students</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$9m 2009-10: \$16m 2010-11: \$17m 2011-12: \$18m Total \$60m</p>	<p>Eliminate TAFE fees for childcare trainees</p>	
<p>Social Inclusion</p>		
<p>Social Inclusion Unit & Board</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$5m 2009-10: \$4m 2010-11: \$4m 2011-12: \$4m Total: \$17m</p>	<p>The Government will establish a new Social Inclusion Unit and Board to assist Ministers, their Departments, States and Territories and service providers to identify and better coordinate policy development for disadvantaged Australians.</p>	<p>Includes Prime Minister and Cabinet and DEEWR expenses</p>

Families, Housing and Community Services

Item	Description	Comments
Children and Families		
<p>Welfare Payments Reform - child protection pilot and school attendance program</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$2.1m 2008-09: \$31.7m 2009-10: \$0.8m Total: \$36.4m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$36.4m over 3 years to undertake and evaluate two welfare payment reform policies.</p> <p>The Child Protection Pilot will trial income management in selected WA communities from July 2008. Child welfare authorities will be able to request that Centrelink manage parents' income support and family payments to ensure that essential needs of children at risk are met. Parents will receive income payments through Income Management debit cards which cannot be used to purchase alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling.</p> <p>The school attendance and enrolment pilot will operate in six NT communities, and two metropolitan locations. From January 2009, welfare recipients will have to notify Centrelink of their child's school enrolment details and State education authorities or schools will be able to notify Centrelink in cases where parents fail to take reasonable steps to ensure children attend school. Parents who do not comply will have their payments suspended with payments restored and back paid when parents take necessary action.</p>	<p>Funding drawn from FaHCSIA, DEEWR, DHS and DVA.</p>

Item	Description	Comments
<p>National Plan to reduce violence against women and children</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$0.8m 2008-09: \$0.5m 2009-10: \$0.3m 2010-11: \$0.3m Total: \$1.7m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$1.7m over 4 years to support activities that help reduce violence against women and children. This includes funding for White Ribbon Day; the Australian Institute of Criminology's <i>National Monitoring Program</i> and research into international best practice models for working with perpetrators of violence</p>	<p>Funding includes \$0.5m from the Australian Institute of Criminology.</p>
<p>Removal of differential treatment of same-sex couples and their children – law reform</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$9.7m 2009-10: -18.5m 2010-11: -\$25.2m 2011-12: -\$30.5m Total: \$83.9m</p>	<p>Government to prospectively remove differential treatment of same-sex couples and their children from Commonwealth laws in a number of areas. Measure is expected to result in net savings of \$66m over 4 years.</p>	
<p>Financial Counselling – enhancing existing programs</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$5m 2009-10: \$5m 2010-11: \$5m 2011-12: \$5m Total: \$20m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$20m over 4 years for increased financial counselling to assist people in managing their finances. The Commonwealth Financial Counselling Program will be doubled.</p>	
Disability		
<p>National Disability Strategy</p> <p>COST The cost of this measure will be met within existing resourcing of FaHCSIA.</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$7.7 million over four years to develop a National Disability Strategy.</p>	<p>The Strategy will include a national policy statement setting the directions and priorities for the development of legislation, policy and financing of disability services.</p>

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Disability Assistance Package</p> <p>COST Redirected funding</p>	<p>The Government will redirect funding of \$901.2m over four years from the Disability Assistance Package (DAP) to the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA).</p>	<p>Provision for this funding has already been included in the forward estimates.</p>
<p>Ageing Carers – Additional Support</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$100m</p>	<p>The Government will provide an extra \$100m under the CSTDA to increase availability of supported accommodation for people with disability where their carers are ageing.</p>	
<p>Carer Bonus</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$426.7m 2008-09: \$1.4m Total: \$428.1m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$428.1m over 2 years for a lump sum payment to carers. Carer Payment recipients will receive \$1,000 and recipients of Carer Allowance will receive \$600 for each eligible person in their care. The payment will be income tax exempt.</p>	
<p>Carers – Improved support</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$0.2m 2008-09: \$20.4m 2009-10: \$77.8m 2010-11: \$94.6m 2011-12: \$98m Total: 293.6m</p>	<p>Government will provide \$293.6m over 5 years to improve assistance to carers. Key components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New assessment process - allowing Carer Payment (Child) recipients to be automatically eligible for Carer Allowance (Child); - allowing access to Carer Payment (child) for short term or episodic care; and - streamlining the transition between payments. 	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Respite brokerage for older carers</p> <p>COST 2007-08: -\$2m 2008-09: \$2m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$2.4m in 2008-09 for respite brokerage services between April 2008 and December 2008 to help older carers caring for adult children aged 40 years and older with a disability. Administration of services to be transferred to States and Territories under new CSTDA. Costs to be met within existing resources of FAHCSIA including re-profiling of \$2m from 2007-08 to 2008-09.</p>	
<p>Business Services Wage Assessment Tool - continuation</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$4.3m 2009-10: \$7.6m 2010-11: \$8.1m 2011-12: \$5.8m Total: \$25.85m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$25.7m over 4 years to provide the disability employment sector with continued access to the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool. Free wage assessments are conducted by the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service staff to assess worker productivity and competency.</p>	
<p>Home in Queanbeyan Mental Health Service</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$1m 2009-10: \$1m Total: \$2m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$2m over 2 years to contribute to Home in Queanbeyan, an organisation that helps people living with chronic mental illness.</p>	
<p>Community services sector</p>		
<p>Volunteer Grants Program</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$5m 2009-10: \$5m 2010-11: \$5m Total: \$15m</p>	<p>The Government provide an additional \$15m over 3 years for the <i>Volunteer Grants Program</i> to assist volunteers to undertake community activities.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Supporting Local Communities</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$0.7m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$1.7m over 2 years (with \$1m to be met within existing resources) to assist community organisations provide homelessness, disability and other services to their local communities.</p>	
Social Security		
<p>Broadband for Seniors</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$5m 2009-10: \$5m 2010-11: \$5m Total: \$15m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$15m over three years to allow up to 2,000 community organisations to purchase desktop computers and broadband connections to run workshops for seniors and provide free internet access to seniors. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be available.</p>	
<p>Seniors Bonus</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$1.375b 2008-09: \$0.5 m Total: \$1.4b</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$1.4 billion over 2 years from 2007-08 for a tax exempt payment of \$500 to individuals in receipt of Age Pension, veterans' pensions, Widow B Pension, Wife Pension, Seniors Concession Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Widows Allowance or Partner Allowance.</p>	<p>This includes funding from FaHCSIA, DEEWR and DVA.</p>
<p>Seniors Concession Allowance</p> <p>COST Already included in forward estimates.</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$324.4m over 5 years to increase rate of Seniors Concession Allowance from \$218 to \$500. The allowance will be paid quarterly.</p>	
<p>Telephone Allowance – assistance with home internet connections</p> <p>COST (FaHCSIA) 2007-08: \$6.8m 2008-09: \$31.5m 2009-10: \$36.0m 2010-11: \$42.4m 2011-12: \$47.5m Total: \$164.2m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$176.5m over 5 years to increase the Telephone Allowance from \$88 to \$132 per year for all income support recipients of Age Pension age, Carer Payment recipients, DSP recipients and holders of Commonwealth Seniors Health Card who have home internet service.</p>	<p>With an additional \$12.2m over 5 from Department of Veterans Affairs.</p>

Item	Description	Comments
<p>National Reciprocal Transport Concessions</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$12.5m 2009-10: \$12.5m 2010-11: \$12.5m 2011-12: \$12.5m Total: \$50m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$50m over 4 years to establish a national reciprocal public transport entitlement to ensure Senior's card holders can travel on public transport at concessional rates anywhere in Australia.</p>	
<p>Centrelink Call Centre Supplementation - continuation</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$59.1m</p>	<p>The Government will provide additional funding of \$59.1m to Centrelink to assist in maintaining service standards in Centrelink Call Centres.</p>	
<p>Utilities Allowance – increase and extend eligibility</p> <p>COST Provision for this funding has already been included in forward estimates.</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$5.1 billion over 5 years to increase the rate of the Utilities Allowance and extend the Allowance to recipients of the DSP, Carer Payment, Invalidity Service Pension, Partner Service Pension, Income Support Supplement, Bereavement Allowance, Widow B Pension and Wife Pension irrespective of age.</p>	
<p>Housing and Homelessness</p>		
<p>Office of Housing - establishment</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$0.3m 2008-09: \$0.8m 2009-10: \$0.8m 2010-11: \$0.8m 2011-12: \$0.8m Total: \$3.5m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$3.7m over 5 years to establish an Office for Housing within FaHCSIA. The office will provide policy advice, co-ordinate the implementation of the Government's housing initiatives and develop a national approach to housing and homelessness issues.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>National Rental Affordability Scheme</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$ 23.5m 2009-10: \$ 72.2m 2010-11: \$ 170.1m 2011-12: \$ 356.8m Total: \$623m</p>	<p>The Government will fund a National Rental Affordability Scheme, at a cost of \$622.6m over the next four years. An annual incentive of \$6,000 per property for up to ten years will be paid by refundable tax offsets and grants. State and Territory Governments will contribute at least \$2,000 per property, in the form of cash grants, concessions on stamp duty or provision of discounted land. To access the scheme, investors must rent properties at 20% below market rate.</p>	<p>Includes \$493.7m funding from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).</p> <p>\$10m more than initially budgeted.</p>
<p>Housing Affordability Fund</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$52.2m 2009-10: \$77.1m 2010-11: \$77.1m 2011-12: \$152.8m 2012-13: \$152.8m Total: \$512m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$512m over 5 years to assist up to 50,000 new home buyers by lowering regulatory and infrastructure costs of home purchase. The Fund will provide grants on a competitive basis to local governments and State and Territory Governments.</p>	
<p>National Housing Supply Council</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$0.9m 2008-09: \$2.3m 2009-10: \$2.3m 2010-11: \$2.3m 2011-12: \$2.3m Total: \$10.2m</p>	<p>The Government will provide \$10.2m over 5 years to establish a National Housing Supply Research Council, which will provide research, forecasts and advice to Government and COAG on long-term housing and land supply trends and publish an annual State of Housing Supply report.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>A Place to Call Home</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$25m 2009-10: \$25m 2010-11: \$25m 2011-12: \$25m 2012-13: \$50m Total: \$150m</p> <p>In addition to: \$2.8 m for Reclink</p>	<p>The Government will invest \$150m over five years to establish up to 600 new homes for families and children who are homeless. States and Territories will be provided with funding for the construction or purchase of homes or the remediation of existing public housing stock.</p> <p>Homeless families and individuals will be able to live in supported housing for the first 12 months, after which house will be transferred to general public housing pool.</p> <p>\$2.8m will also be directed to expanding Reclink sporting and cultural programs.</p>	<p>This measure delivers on the Government's election commitment.</p> <p>States and territories will have to match Commonwealth funding, although this can be through the provision of land or in-kind support.</p>
Savings measures		
<p>Access card</p> <p>COST 2007-08: -\$136.8m 2008-09: -\$307.3m 2009-10: -\$243.6m 2010-11: -\$258.2m 2011-12: -\$184.1m Total: -\$1.1b</p>	<p>The Government will not proceed with funding for the Access Card project.</p>	<p>Savings measures totals calculated across portfolios and agencies.</p>
<p>Means testing of baby bonus</p> <p>COST 2008-09: -\$52.4m 2009-10: -\$96.5m 2010-11: -\$101m 2011-12: -\$104.7 Total: -\$354.6m</p>	<p>The Government will limit eligibility to Baby Bonus to families with an adjusted taxable income of \$75,000 or less in the six months after the birth of the baby. Bonus will be increased to \$5,000.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
Means testing of Family Tax Benefit (Part B) COST 2008-09: -\$112.8m 2009-10: -\$132.4m 2010-11: -\$141.2m 2011-12: -\$158.0m Total: -\$544.4m	The Government will limit eligibility for FTB-B to families where the primary earner has an adjusted taxable income of \$150,000 a year or less.	
Continuous adjustment to reduce over-payments of FTB-B COST 2008-09: \$1.7m 2009-10: -\$14.3m 2010-11: -\$0.5m 2011-12: \$0.6m Total: -\$12.5m	The Government will ensure that FTB payments are adjusted when families advise of a change in income estimate - to avoid over-payment.	
Streamlining administration of FTB(B) COST 2008-09: -\$19.8m 2009-10: -\$25m 2010-11: -\$27.9m 2011-12: -\$28.5m Total: -\$101.2m	Government to simplify the delivery of FTB(B) with benefit to be claimed only through Centrelink and Medicare, and not through the tax system.	Total includes savings from the ATO.
Centrelink – further call centre supplementation COST 2007-08: -\$5m	Government not to proceed with funding for the <i>Centrelink – further call centre supplementation – continuation</i> announced in the <i>Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Year Outlook 2007-08</i> .	Includes savings from DEEWR.
Commonwealth Seniors Health Card – adjusted taxable income test COST 2008-09: \$12.2m 2009-10: -\$30.2m 2010-11: -\$32.4m 2011-12: -\$34.6m Total: -\$85m	The Government will change the Health Card income test to include gross income from superannuation income streams from a taxed source and include income that is salary sacrificed to superannuation.	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Abolition of Community Business Partnership</p> <p>COST 2007-08: -\$0.7m 2008-09: -\$0.5m Total: -\$1.2m</p>	<p>The Government will not proceed with the Community Business Partnership, an advisory group on individual and corporate social responsibility.</p>	
<p>Concession cards – retention while overseas</p> <p>COST 2008-09: -\$4.6m 2009-10: -\$4.9m 2010-11: -\$4.9m 2011-12: -\$5.0 m Total: -\$19.4m</p>	<p>The Government will cease automatic cancellation of concession cards for temporary absences from Australia to reduce administration costs.</p>	
<p>Employment Entry Payment – abolition</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$1.0m 2008-09: -\$14.9m 2009-10: -\$15.8m 2010-11: -\$15.6m 2011-12: -\$15.5m Total: -\$60.8m</p>	<p>The Government will abolish the Employment Entry Payment from July 1 2008.</p>	<p>Total includes funding/savings from FaHCSIA and DEEWR.</p>
<p>Family Tax Benefit (Part B): cease fortnightly payments for recipients who do not lodge tax returns</p> <p>COST 2007-08: \$41.6m 2008-09: \$13.3m 2009-10: \$121.1m 2010-11: -\$115.5m 2011-12: -\$137.6m Total: -\$77.1m</p>	<p>The Government will implement changes to address FTB debts accrued because recipients do not lodge a tax return.</p>	

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Fraud and compliance – assessments to verify income and assets</p> <p>COST 2008-09: -\$102.1m 2009-10: -\$145.2m 2010-11: -\$165.8m 2011-12: -\$176.2m Total: -\$589.3m</p>	<p>The Government will increase the number of assessments of people receiving payments through Centrelink, where data matching with the ATO suggests the need for a review.</p>	<p>Total savings include savings from FaHCSIA and DEEWR.</p>
<p>Fraud and compliance – Commonwealth Seniors Cards compliance reviews</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$4.4m 2009-10: -\$24.3m 2010-11: -\$28.6m 2011-12: -\$34.0m Total: -\$82.5m</p>	<p>The Government will establish a compliance program for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.</p>	
<p>Partner service pension – cease payment to separated married partners</p> <p>COST 2008-09: -\$3.3m 2009-10: -\$9.0m 2010-11: -\$10.2m 2011-12: -\$11.6m Total: -\$34.1m</p>	<p>The Government will no longer provide the Service Pension for partners who are separated from, but not divorced from, a veteran.</p>	
<p>Cessation of pilot program addressing undeclared income and assets</p> <p>COST 2007-08: -\$1m</p>	<p>The Government will not proceed with the <i>Fraud and Compliance – pilot program addressing undeclared business income and assets</i> announced in the 2006-07 Budget.</p>	<p>Total includes savings from DEEWR of \$0.5m.</p>

Health and Ageing

Item	Description	Comments
Health Reform		
Establish National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission COST 2007-08: \$2.2m 2008-09: \$4.6m Total: \$6.8m	To establish the Commission which will advise and report on a long term health reform plan to Improve the performance of the health system.	
Better outcomes for hospitals and community health COST 2007-08: \$142m 2008-09: \$71.9m 2009-10: \$55m 2010-11: \$57.3m 2011-12: \$63.3m Total: \$389.5m	Grants and recurrent funding to support health care facilities and improve patient outcomes, including for advanced medical technology, improved facilities and services and medical training infrastructure.	
Child Health		
Health Check for four year old children COST 2008-09: \$7.3m 2009-10: \$5.9m 2010-11: \$6.1m 2011-12: \$6.3m Total: \$25.6m	Introduction of healthy child check for all four year old children.	Aims to ensure all children are fit, healthy and ready to learn when they start school.

Item	Description	Comments
Public Hospitals		
Elective surgery waiting lists COST 2007-08: \$75m 2008-09: \$155m 2009-10: \$150m 2010-11: \$220m Total: \$600m	To reduce public hospital waiting lists.	
Additional funding for public hospitals COST 2007-08: \$500m	To help meet demand for services in public hospitals.	Government will provide \$1b to States and Territories through the Australian Health Care Agreements which have been extended by 12 months to coincide with the new framework for Specific Purpose Payments. Provision of funding of \$512.5m in 2008-09 has already been included in the forward estimates.
Oral health		
Commonwealth Dental Health Program COST 2008-09: \$92m 2009-10: \$96.6m 2010-11: \$101.4m Total: \$290m	Under the program State and Territory Governments will be required to meet new standards of dental care. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing priority services to individuals with chronic diseases affected by poor oral health; • Providing timely service for preventative and emergency services; and • Maintaining current effort. 	
Teen Dental Plan COST 2007-08: \$1.3m 2008-09: \$92.4m 2009-10: \$104.6m 2010-11: \$126.8m 2011-12: \$132.8m Total: \$490.7m	Contributes to the cost of an annual dental preventative check for eligible teenagers aged 12-17 years old.	One million teenagers in families receiving Family Tax Benefit (A) or teenagers in receipt of ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance will be eligible for assistance of up to \$150 per year.

Item	Description	Comments
Rural health		
Rural Health COST 2008-09: \$6.0m 2009-10: \$6.7m 2010-11: \$7.2m 2011-12: \$7.0m Total: \$26.9m	Includes additional rural scholarships for medical students, supporting medical specialist outreach in rural and regional areas, and broadened eligibility for the Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund.	
Public and preventative health		
National Preventative Health Strategy COST 2007-08: \$0.5m 2008-09: \$1m 2009-10: \$1m 2010-11: \$1m 2011-12: \$1m Total: \$4.5m	Develop a national preventative health strategy to tackle the burden of disease caused by obesity, tobacco usage and excess alcohol consumption.	
National Bowel Cancer Screening Program COST 2008-09: \$30.8m 2009-10: \$27.2m 2010-11: \$29.4m Total: \$87.4m	Provides bowel cancer screening for 50, 55 and 65 year olds.	
Mental health		
National Advisory Council on Mental Health COST: within existing resources	To establish Council to provide independent advice from experts on mental health and assist with coordination of Commonwealth, State and Territory mental health services.	
Perinatal depression COST: 2008-09: \$6.0m 2009-10: \$8.8m 2010-11: \$11.9m 2011-12: \$14.6m Total: \$55.0m	To combat perinatal depression.	Provides for mothers to be screened before and after pregnancy by health professionals. Also provides for training for health professionals and improve follow up and support for women assessed as 'at risk.'

Item	Description	Comments
Health services		
GP Super Clinics COST: 2007-08: \$33.1m 2008-09: \$76.6m 2009-10: \$66.3m 2010-11: \$49.3m 2011-12: \$49.8m Total: \$275.2m	Establish or upgrade clinics in a number of areas to improve access to primary and chronic health care. communities, particularly targeted at rural and regional areas and areas where.	To improve access to doctors, nurses, specialists and allied health professionals in areas where Medicare has not been fully utilised because of workforce shortages.
Health workforce		
Additional higher education nursing places COST: 2008-09: \$8.4m 2009-10: \$21.2m 2010-11: \$31.1m 2011-12: \$38.8m Total: \$99.5m	Increases the number of Commonwealth supported university places by 90 places starting in July 2008 and by 1,170 starting in 2009.	
Supporting nurses back into the workforce COST: 2007-08: \$0.7m 2008-09: \$5.4m 2009-10: \$10.3m 2010-11: \$11.2m 2011-12: \$11.8m Total: \$39.4m	Encourages qualified nurses to return to the workforce.	Cash bonuses of \$6,000 will be available to nurses who have been out of the health workforce for more than a year who return to work in hospitals and residential aged care.

Item	Description	Comments
Aged Care		
<p>Aged care places and transition from hospitals to aged care</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$12.2m 2009-10: \$39.7m 2010-11: \$86.1m 2011-12: \$155.3m Total: \$293.2m</p>	<p>Creates up to 2,000 transition care beds for older Australians who are currently waiting in hospital beds for an aged care bed, while allowing others to return to their home. The Government will also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$300m of loans at zero real interest rates to aged care providers to make up to 2,500 permanent residential aged care beds available to older Australians sooner. • \$2m over four years to regularly review the ratio of aged care places available for the population of older Australians to ensure supply of aged care places meets current and future needs. 	
<p>Conditional Adjustment Payment Increase</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$94.6m 2009-10: \$99.7m 2010-11: \$104.9m 2011-12: \$108.3m Total: \$407.6m</p>	<p>Will increase the Conditional Adjustment Payment to aged care providers from 7% to 8.75% of the recurrent basic subsidy in 2008-09.</p>	<p>The additional funding will contribute to maintaining the financial viability of aged care providers.</p>
Selected key savings		
<p>Dental treatment – enhanced Medicare items for patients with chronic and complex conditions</p> <p>COST 2007-08: -\$39.3m 2008-09: -\$113.8m 2009-10: -\$94.9m 2010-11: -\$110.8m 2011-12: -\$119.5m Total: -\$478.3m</p>		

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Adjusting the funding for specific health programs</p> <p>COST 2008-09: -\$113.7m 2009-10: -\$138.1m 2010-11: -\$130.3m 2011-12: -\$123.1m Total: -\$505.2m</p>	<p>Adjusted funding for a number of health programs that have a history of lower than anticipated expenditure. The programs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care financing quality and access • Primary care education and training • Primary care policy, innovation and research • Pathology services • Mental health • E-Health implementation • Diagnostic imaging. 	
<p>Medicare Benefits Schedule increased compliance</p> <p>COST 2008-09: -\$21.2m 2009-10: -\$42.2m 2010-11: -\$41.5m 2011-12: -\$42.4m Total: -\$147.3m</p>		

Human Services

Item	Description	Comments
Medicare – increased compliance audits COST 2008-09: \$14.2m 2009-10: \$18.7m 2010-11: \$18.8m 2011-12: \$19.0m Total: \$70.7m	The Government will increase its compliance audit program to ensure appropriate claiming of items on the Medicare Benefits Schedule by health care providers.	
COST: Defunding access card SAVING 2007-08: -\$246.5m 2008-09: -\$309.9m 2009-10: -\$246.3m 2010-11: -\$258.5m 2011-12: -\$184.3m Total: -\$1.2b	The Government will not proceed with funding for the Access Card Project, which was introduced in the 2006-07 Budget measures – Health and social services access card.	

Climate Change

Item	Description	Comments
Climate Change		
<p>Solar, green energy and water renovations plan for Australian households</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$17.4m 2009-10: \$60.2m 2010-11: \$88.1m 2011-12: \$87.9m 2012-13: \$46.3m Total: \$300m</p>	<p>Low interest loans of up to \$10,000 to 200,000 households with incomes up to \$250,000, by 2012.</p> <p>Accredited environmental audits.</p> <p>Free 'green renovations' pack with tips, energy efficient globes and water efficient shower heads. \$300m over five years (previously four).</p>	<p>Not targeted to low income households.</p>
<p>Low emission plan for renters</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$10.5m 2009-10: \$37.5m 2010-11: \$50m 2011-12: \$50m Total: \$150m</p>	<p>Allows for rebates of 30% of cost of installation of insulation to maximum \$500 in rental properties. Paid to landlord to help renters reduce bills and emissions. \$150m over five years (previously four).</p>	<p>Not targeted to low income households.</p>
<p>Solar Homes and Communities Plan</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$25.6m 2009-10: \$19.4m 2010-11: -\$27.4m 2011-12: -\$17.7m</p>	<p>Funding scheduled for 2010-11 and 2011-12 brought forward to 2008-09 and 2009-10 to meet increased demand for household rebates under Plan formerly known as Photovoltaic Rebate Program. Measure provides rebates for up to 6,000 households each year for installation of solar power panels. Means test introduced to target households with taxable income under \$100,000 per annum.</p>	<p>Not new money. Brings forward funding in 2010-11 and 2011-12 to 2008-09 and 2009-10.</p>

Immigration and Citizenship

Item	Description	Comments
Immigration		
<p>Adult Migrant English Program – extension and enhancement</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$5.2m 2009-10: \$13.3m 2010-11: \$14m 2011-12: \$15.9m Total: \$48.4m</p>	<p>Additional funding for Adult Migrant English Program to help migrants learn English and find work as soon as possible.</p>	
<p>Humanitarian migration program – additional 500 places for Iraqis in 2008-09</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$10.3m 2009-10: \$11.0m 2010-11: \$8.8m 2011-12: \$8.5m Total: \$35.3m</p>	<p>Increase in 2008-09 Humanitarian migration program by an additional 500 refugee places for Iraqis only to assist in resettlement of displaced refugees.</p>	<p>Expense incurred by several portfolios and related agencies.</p>
<p>Humanitarian migration program – additional 750 places</p> <p>COST 2009-10: \$13.6m 2010-11: \$32.4m 2011-12: \$46.8m Total: \$92.8m</p>	<p>Increase Special Humanitarian Program by 750 places from 2009-10 onwards at a cost of \$85.1 million over four years. Takes total to 13,750 places per year.</p>	<p>Total cost of \$85.1 million offset by revenue of \$12.1million.</p> <p>Expense incurred by several portfolios and related agencies.</p>
<p>Migration program – 37,500 place increase 2008-09</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$226.7m 2009-10: \$463.2m 2010-11: \$716.5m 2011-12: \$993.6m Total: \$1.39b</p>	<p>Increase Migration Program by 37,500 places from 2008-09 onwards at a cost of \$1.39b million over four years. 31,000 places in skill stream, 6,500 in family stream. Takes total to 190,300 places per year. Intended to address skilled labour shortages and help business expand.</p>	<p>Total cost offset by an increase in revenue of \$2.9b over 4 years.</p> <p>Expense incurred by several portfolios and related agencies.</p>

Item	Description	Comments
<p>Migration program – additional 6,000 skill stream places for 2007-08</p> <p>COST 2008-09: \$38.7m 2009-10: \$38.9m 2010-11: \$48.1m 2011-12: \$47.6m Total: \$99.6m</p>	<p>Increase skill stream places by 6,000 places in 2007-08.</p>	<p>Total cost of \$99.6 million offset by revenue of \$188.5 million.</p> <p>Expense incurred by several portfolios and related agencies.</p>



Australian Council of Social Service

Level 2, 619 Elizabeth Street, Redfern NSW 2016

Locked Bag 4777, Strawberry Hills, NSW, 2012

Telephone: 02 9310 6200 Fax: 02 9310 4822

Web: www.acoss.org.au Email: info@acoss.org.au