



# PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

**Referred by:** Australian Labor Party

**Proposal No:** C1590

**Date Referred:** 09/03/2023

**Date Published:** 20/03/2023

**Proposal Title:** Women’s Health Centres

**Cluster:** Health

## General Government Sector Impacts

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	4 year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. depreciation)	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Offsets	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Operating Balance:</b>	-	-	-	-	-

Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Offsets	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Capital Expenditure:</b>	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Net Lending/(Borrowing):</b>	-	-	-	-	-
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## Total State Sector Impacts

<b>Net Lending/(Borrowing):</b>	-	-	-	-	-
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## Notes and costing assumptions:

This policy proposes to increase the budget for the Women’s Health Program to \$60.1 million over the forward estimates. This program is currently delivered by the Women’s Health Centres (WHCs). As there is existing budget of \$34.7 million over the forward estimates, this policy will provide an additional \$25.4 million to 2025-26 to sustain activities, service levels, and outcomes for the Women’s Health Program.

NSW Health advised that it currently provides approximately \$11 million annually to 20 WHCs in NSW through Women's Health NSW (WHNSW) under the Ministerially Approved Grants (MAG) Program. Each grant is subject to its own timeframe and review and management provisions.

The policy specifies that the funding will be absorbed by NSW Health. While NSW Health have advised that they are unable to absorb the additional \$25.4 million cost, the PBO notes that the policy could be implemented by re-prioritising other programs and funding, noting that this could be difficult in practice and may affect the delivery of some services.

## Notes and costing assumptions continued:

### Additional investment in Women's Health Centres

NSW Health advised that the proposed \$60.1 million to 2025-26 per the policy could be implemented as follows:

- \$11.3 million per year– continuation of MAG Program funding (already budgeted)
- \$8.25 million per year – additional investment provided as grants

**Table 1: Existing grant funding and additional funding for WHCs over the forward estimates**

<b>Recurrent Expenses</b>	<b>2023-24 \$'000</b>	<b>2024-25 \$'000</b>	<b>2025-26 \$'000</b>	<b>3-year Total \$'000</b>
MAG Program (budgeted funding)	11,275	11,557	11,846	34,678
Additional investment to be provided (see <i>Key assumptions</i> for the proposed uses)	8,250	8,456	8,668	25,374
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>19,525</b>	<b>20,013</b>	<b>20,513</b>	<b>60,052</b>

*Note the amounts in the table above have been escalated by 2.5% each year.*

### **Key assumptions**

- A business case is in development that will inform a planning process between the Local Health Districts (LHDs), WHCs and other portfolio areas to determine allocations of any additional investment per centre. This would ensure funding is aligned with other existing investments and with local priorities and services.
- In consultation between NSW Health and WHCs the planning process will determine:
  - local priorities and gaps in essential services for the population,
  - linkages with existing portfolio investments to reduce duplication,
  - the amount of extra activity being purchased with the additional investment, and
  - the appropriate allocation amount per centre.
- NSW Health advised that the proposed funding could be potentially used to:
  - manage the workload and employee retention,
  - provide care for individuals with complex needs,
  - provide more accessible services, including drop-in support service for women with urgent needs,
  - ensure effective administration and governance arrangements, and
  - meet regulatory, operational, and infrastructure costs and requirements (including accreditations, IT, security, insurance and rent).

### **Background**

In addition to the MAG funding from NSW Health, WHCs may receive additional financial support, including ad hoc grants, from a variety of sources. This includes direct grants from the Australian Government.

NSW Health advised that additional funding for WHCs includes the following:

- In 2022-23, 12 out of 20 WHC received \$8 million from Tranche 2 of the COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Grants program, administered by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).
- In October 2022, the Minister of Health allocated one-off funding of \$200,000 to the Illawarra Women's Health Centre. This is in addition to the \$300,000 approved by the Minister of Health in June 2021.
- The Australian Government Budget for 2022-23 allocated \$15 million (provided to NSW Health) to 2025-26 for the Illawarra Women's Health Centre to establish a Trauma Recovery Centre.