From: Lee, Amanda
To: Patterson, Cath

Subject: FW: Department of Finance Daily Briefing Wednesday 9 February 2022 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 6:06:12 AM

s 22

the source under the charts in the second article says Department of

Finance

From: Lee, Amanda < Amanda. Lee@finance.gov.au>

Date: 9 February 2022 at 6:00:26 am AEDT

To: BFR - Budget Policy and Coordination Division

<BFRbcu@finance.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Department of Finance Daily Briefing Wednesday 9 February

2022

From: noreply@streem.com.auOn Behalf OfDepartment of Finance via Streem

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 6:00:09 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: Daily Media Briefing

Subject: Department of Finance Daily Briefing Wednesday 9 February 2022

View this email online

From: Lee Amanda
To: Patterson Cath

Subject: RE: Starting Options for RH plus HIB from 2019 when this happened last time to us [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 9:42:00 AM

Attachments: image001.jpg image002.png

SEC=OFFICIAL

Yes that works

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Patterson, Cath < Cath. Patterson@finance.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 9:41 AM **To:** Lee, Amanda <Amanda.Lee@finance.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Starting Options for RH plus HIB from 2019 when this happened last time to us

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Thanks

I think we should go with a variant of Option 2 Suggested text below – let me know what you think and I will send to Rosemary

Option 2: The Tables attributed to the Department of Finance in the article <u>Labor Covid policies</u> <u>an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister</u> published in The Australian on 9 February 2022 were not prepared or supplied by the Department of Finance. At the request of the Office of the Minister for Finance, The Australian has corrected the attribution.

The Department of Finance cost a range of policies at the request of the Government to inform the policy deliberations of Government. These costings are based on, and only on, the assumptions provided to the Department by the Government. The Department does not cost opposition policies.

Cath Patterson | Deputy Secretary Budget and Financial Reporting

?

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Lee, Amanda Amanda.Lee@finance.gov.au

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 8:43 AM

To: Patterson, Cath <<u>Cath.Patterson@finance.gov.au></u>

Subject: Starting Options for RH plus HIB from 2019 when this happened last time to us

SEC=OFFICIAL

Option 1: The Tables attributed to the Department of Finance in the article <u>Labor Covid policies</u> <u>an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister</u> published in The Australian were not prepared or supplied by the Department of Finance.

Option 2: The Tables attributed to the Department of Finance in the article <u>Labor Covid policies</u> <u>an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister</u> published in The Australian were not prepared or supplied by the Department of Finance. The Finance Minister's office have asked the Australian to correct the attribution.

The Department of Finance cost a variety of policies and undertakes analysis at the request of the Government to inform the policy deliberations of government.. We have been regularly asked by governments over many years to undertake costings on policies and to provide analysis and we have done this.



Amanda Lee | First Assistant Secretary Budget Policy and Coordination Division Budget and Financial Reporting Department of Finance

T: 02 6215 2448 | **M: S 22**

E: amanda.lee@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

From: Patterson, Cath

To: Huxtable, Rosemary

Subject: RE: Draft wording [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:08:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image005.jpg</u>

image006.png image002.jpg

SEC=OFFICIAL

Thanks – agree hold now that correction has been made. HIB is being prepared now and we will use text as per below. Cath

?

Cath Patterson | Deputy Secretary Budget and Financial Reporting Department of Finance

T: 02 6215 2566 | M: s 22 | E cath.patterson@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Huxtable, Rosemary < Rosemary. Huxtable@finance.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:06 AM

To: Patterson, Cath < Cath. Patterson@finance.gov.au>

Cc: Secretary - Executive <Secretary-Executive@finance.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Draft wording [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

One slight change but that looks good and we should hold it for a media inquiry. Given they have corrected not sure we need to get on front foot. But also need it for Estimates of course.

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Patterson, Cath < <u>Cath.Patterson@finance.gov.au</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:00 AM

To: Huxtable, Rosemary < <u>Rosemary.Huxtable@finance.gov.au</u>> **Cc:** Secretary - Executive < <u>Secretary-Executive@finance.gov.au</u>>

Subject: Draft wording [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Rosemary

We have drawn from your comments at Estimates previously, a HIB prepared previously (attached) and noted the language used in previous statements provided in the past on costing issues

Happy to amend/expand as needed.

Cath

The table and graph attributed to the Department of Finance in the article <u>Labor Covid policies</u> <u>an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister</u> published in The Australian on 9 February 2022 were not prepared or supplied by the Department of Finance. At the request of the Office of the Minister for Finance, The Australian has corrected the attribution.

The Department of Finance costs a range of policies at the request of the Government to inform the policy deliberations of Government. These costings are based on, and only on, the assumptions provided to the Department by the Government. The Department does not cost opposition policies.



Cath Patterson | Deputy Secretary Budget and Financial Reporting Department of Finance

T: 02 6215 2566 | M: \$ 22 | E cath.patterson@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Lee, Amanda < Amanda. Lee@finance.gov.au >

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 8:06 AM

To: Patterson, Cath < <u>Cath.Patterson@finance.gov.au</u>>

Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Statement on Costings by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Finance and Deregulation | Treasury.gov.au

Response on Treasury analysis | Treasury.gov.au



Amanda Lee | First Assistant Secretary Budget Policy and Coordination Division Budget and Financial Reporting Department of Finance

T: 02 6215 2448 | **M: S 22**

E: amanda.lee@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603



12 April 2019

The Hon Chris Bowen MP Shadow Treasurer and Member for McMahon Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Bowen

I write to you in response to your letter and phone call earlier this morning regarding media reports of Treasury analysis of Opposition policies. I have investigated the circumstances surrounding your concerns and am able to reassure you that no breach of conduct or impartiality has occurred.

In the specific case to which you have referred, Treasury received requests from the Treasurer's Office outlining a number of policies to be costed with details and specifications also provided. The specifications provided made no reference to the Opposition. The relevant officials costed these proposals and provided this analysis to the Treasurer's Office prior to the commencement of the caretaker period. In providing specific costings to the Government at its request, Treasury advised that they were all costed on a standalone basis but with interactions between the individual proposals not taken into account. For this reason we did not provide a total.

As a former Treasury Secretary observed in a letter made <u>public</u> on 7 November 2012 to respond to similar concerns, Treasury serves the Australian people through the Government of the day. In keeping with that responsibility, we have been regularly asked by governments over many years to undertake costings on policies and proposals. As I submitted earlier this year at the Senate Estimates Economics hearing of 20 February 2019, if a government makes a lawful request of Treasury for information, we will generally seek to do what the government has asked us. We were not asked to cost another party's policies and would not do so if the request was made specifically to 'cost Party X's policy'.

In this engagement, as in previous instances of concern highlighted by elected representatives from both sides of politics, the Treasury has conducted itself to the highest standard and in the same manner as when requests were made by previous governments.

Yours sincerely

Philip Gaetjens



Australian Government

Department of Finance and Deregulation

The Treasury

MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT ON COSTINGS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND DEREGULATION

There have been a series of reports today regarding costings undertaken by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

The Departments of Treasury and Finance were asked to prepare costings on policy options, which were provided to the Departments by the Government prior to the election being called. These costings were completed and submitted to the Government prior to the election being called. This is consistent with long-standing practice.

These costings were not prepared under the election costings commitments' process outlined in the *Charter of Budget Honesty Act 1998*.

At no stage prior to the Caretaker period has either Department costed Opposition policies.

Different costing assumptions, such as the start date of a policy, take up assumptions, indexation and the coverage that applies, will inevitably generate different financial outcomes.

The financial implications of a policy may also differ depending on whether the costing is presented on an underlying cash balance or fiscal balance basis.

The Treasury and Finance costings presented in the advice to Government reported today were presented on an underlying cash balance basis.

Dr Martin Parkinson PSM Secretary The Treasury

Department of the Treasury

Contact: Media Liaison Telephone: (02) 6263 2300 MediaLiaison@treasury.gov.au Mr David Tune PSM Secretary Department of Finance and Deregulation

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Contact: Amelia Huang Telephone: (02) 6215 2222 Mediaenquiries@finance.gov.au

29 August 2013

From: Lee_Amanda

To: Rudnicki, Elicia: \$ 22
Subject: FW: Draft wording [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:21:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image002.jpg</u>

image003.png image004.ipg

SEC=OFFICIAL

FYI- please incorporate into Sec fact sheet

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Patterson, Cath < Cath. Patterson@finance.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:09 AM
To: Lee, Amanda <Amanda.Lee@finance.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Draft wording [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

See below Cath



Cath Patterson | Deputy Secretary Budget and Financial Reporting

Department of Finance

T: 02 6215 2566 | M: **s 22** | | E <u>cath.patterson@finance.gov.au</u>

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Huxtable, Rosemary < Rosemary . Huxtable@finance.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:06 AM

To: Patterson, Cath < Cath.Patterson@finance.gov.au>

Cc: Secretary - Executive <<u>Secretary-Executive@finance.gov.au></u>

Subject: RE: Draft wording [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

One slight change but that looks good and we should hold it for a media inquiry. Given they have corrected not sure we need to get on front foot. But also need it for Estimates of course.

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: Patterson, Cath <<u>Cath.Patterson@finance.gov.au></u>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:00 AM

To: Huxtable, Rosemary Rosemary.Huxtable@finance.gov.au **Cc:** Secretary - Executive Secretary-Executive@finance.gov.au

Subject: Draft wording [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Duplicate of Document 3

From: Rudnicki, Elicia
To: \$ 22

Subject: Update from Amanda [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 10:29:09 AM

Attachments: 220209 - media clippings.pdf

SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET

His 22

Sending a pdf copy re what was printed as Amanda and Cath have said the tables have been removed from the online version now.

Amanda has also confirmed we're doing a SEC Fact Sheet (rather than HIB).

Thanks

Е

SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET

From: Lee, Amanda
To: \$ 22
Subject: [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 11:29:00 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image001.png the-australian-20220208.pdf

SEC=OFFICIAL



Amanda Lee | First Assistant Secretary Budget Policy and Coordination Division Budget and Financial Reporting Department of Finance

T: 02 6215 2448 | M: s 22
E: amanda.lee@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603



From: Harmer, Anna <<u>Anna.Harmer@finance.gov.au</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 11:21 AM

To: s 22 @finance.gov.au>; Painton, Geoff

<Geoff.Painton@finance.gov.au>

Cc: GDD Exec Support < GDDexecsupport@finance.gov.au>; BFR - AAU - Treasury

<Treasury@finance.gov.au>

Subject: RE: ALP costings [SEC=PROTECTED]

SEC=PROTECTED

Thanks **s** 22

Had seen the piece in the Australian, but hadn't appreciated that the costings would be attributed to Finance. Very grateful for a copy of the brief once prepared.

s 22

Anna

SEC=PROTECTED

From: \$ 22 @finance.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 9:29 AM

To: Painton, Geoff < Geoff.Painton@finance.gov.au>; Harmer, Anna

<a href="mailto:Anna.Harmer@finance.gov.au>

Cc: GDD Exec Support <GDDexecsupport@finance.gov.au>; BFR - AAU - Treasury

<Treasury@finance.gov.au>

Subject: ALP costings [SEC=PROTECTED]

SEC=PROTECTED

Hi Geoff & Anna

Just a heads up. The Office have provided some costings of ALP proposals to the Australian (and are proposing to release today) that have been attributed to Finance. These include JobKeeper numbers. To the best of my knowledge, we have not costed these items § 22

BAB is pulling together a HIB on the issue. The article is at

the link below
21994720220209010101010101_wpk72X4BZxsX1eP58Sjy.pdf (storage.googleapis.com)
Regards
Anne
SEC=PROTECTED

SEC=PROTECTED

From: Rudnicki, Elicia
To: S 22
Cc:

Subject: From E - RE: For ER - Sec Only Factsheet - costings of non-government policy [SEC=PROTECTED]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 12:42:29 PM

SEC=PROTECTED

Great work § 22 . Very minor edits, and for ease, have snipped the pdf of the article into the body of the Fact Sheet.

s 22

E.

SEC=PROTECTED

From: S 22 @finance.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 12:03 PM

To: Rudnicki, Elicia < Elicia. Rudnicki@finance.gov.au>

Cc: \$ 22 @finance.gov.au>

Subject: For ER - Sec Only Factsheet - costings of non-government policy [SEC=PROTECTED]

SEC=PROTECTED

Elicia

Please find below a link to the draft Sec only factsheet on the article.

Secretary Only Factsheet - costing Opposition Proposals

We have picked up as much of the previous language as possible.

Thanks

s 22

SEC=PROTECTED

From: \$ 22
To: BFR Executive Team

Cc: Lee, Amanda; Rudnicki, Elicia; S 22; ExpenditureTrends

Subject: DUE: 5pm WED 9/02 - For Clearance - Secretary Only Factsheet - Costing Non-Government Policies

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 2:38:45 PM

Attachments: image001.jpg

Costing Opposition Proposals - to CP.docx

SEC=OFFICIAL

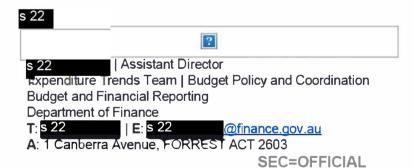
Document to be cleared	Secretary Only Factsheet - Costing Non-Government Policies		
Drafting Officer (name and	s 22		
number)			
(learance ()fficer	Have to the Clearance Officer by	Clearance required by	
	Officer by		
Deputy Secretary	3pm 09/02	5pm 09/02	

Hi**s 22**

Please see attached the late request for a Secretary Only Factsheet on costing non-government policies. This stems from the article in the Australian this morning.

Given these were to be finalised on Monday we've asked that Cath look at this as soon as possible, we're sorry for the tight turn around on it.

Thanks



Costing Opposition Policies

Subject/Issue

The Department of Finance (Finance) costs a range of policies at the request of the Government to inform the policy deliberations of Government. Finance does not cost opposition policies.

Key facts, figures or metrics

- On 9 February 2022, *The Australian* published an article titled '*Labor Covid policies an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister*', which detailed the additional cost of the Australian Labor Party's COVID-19 pandemic policies.
- The financial impact of Labor's policies were initially attributed (in the print version of the article) as sourced from Finance (<u>Attachment A</u>).
 - *Note*: *The Australian* removed this attribution from the online article around mid-morning on 9 February 2022.

Key points

- Finance costs a range of policies at the request of the Government based on, and only on, the assumptions provided by the Government.
- Costings are undertaken to inform the policy deliberations of the Government.
 - Some costed policies result in decisions that appear in the Budget, and some do not.
- The table and graph initially attributed to the Finance in *The Australian* article on 9 February 2022 were not prepared or supplied by Finance.
 - *The Australian* has corrected the attribution with the table and graph removed from the online version of the article.

1

Background

- The Australian article 'Labor Covid policies an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister' initially referenced the Department of Finance costings in respect to a range of policies.
- When costing proposals, the Department of Finance prepares them in accordance with the *Charter of Budget Honesty Policy Costing Guidelines*.
- The detail of all costings provided to the Government are considered 'PROTECTED-Cabinet' as they are used as a part of the policy deliberation process.

Date:

Cleared by (SES): Amanda Lee Telephone No: S 22

Group/Branch: Budget and Financial Reporting/Budget Analysis and Policy

Contact Officer: Elicia Rudnicki
Telephone No: 6215 3629
Consultation: Nil

Last Printed 8/03/2022 2:25 PM

From: Lee, Amanda
To: § 22
Cc: Rudnicki, Elicia:

Subject: RE: For AL Review - Sec Only Factsheet - costings of non-government policy [SEC=PROTECTED]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 2:30:26 PM

SEC=PROTECTED

Cleared Thank you

SEC=PROTECTED

From: \$ 22 @finance.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 1:10 PM **To:** Lee, Amanda <Amanda.Lee@finance.gov.au>

Cc: Rudnicki, Elicia <Elicia.Rudnicki@finance.gov.au>; \$ 22

@finance.gov.au>

Subject: For AL Review - Sec Only Factsheet - costings of non-government policy

[SEC=PROTECTED]

SEC=PROTECTED

Hi Amanda,

For your review the Sec only fact sheet.

Secretary Only factsheet - Costing of non-government proposals

Thanks

s 22

SEC=PROTECTED

From: Patterson, Cath
To: BFR Executive Team

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: DUE: 5pm WED 9/02 - For Clearance - Secretary Only Factsheet - Costing Non-

Government Policies [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 2:55:13 PM

Attachments: image014.jpg

Costing Opposition Proposals - to CP with CP edits docx

image001.jpg

SEC=OFFICIAL

Cleared with edits and request for an Attachment A (which is Hansard excerpt from May 2018) Cath

?

Cath Patterson | Deputy Secretary Budget and Financial Reporting

Department of Finance

T: 02 6215 2566 | M: **\$ 22** | E cath.patterson@finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: BFR Executive Team

Sent: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 2:49 PM

To: Patterson, Cath **Cc:** BFR Executive Team

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: DUE: 5pm WED 9/02 - For Clearance - Secretary Only Factsheet -

Costing Non-Government Policies [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

Hi Cath

Please find attached the Secretary Factsheet on Costing Opposition Proposals for your urgent

The team is seeking your clearance by 5pm today.

Thank you,

s 22



s 22 | Executive Officer to

Deputy Secretary of Budget and Financial Reporting

Department of Finance

Cath Patterson

T:s 22 | M:s 22 E:s 22 | @finance.gov.au

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Costing Opposition Policies

Subject/Issue

The Department of Finance (Finance) costs a range of policies at the request of the Government to inform the policy deliberations of Government. Finance does not cost opposition policies.

Key facts, figures or metrics

- On 9 February 2022, *The Australian* published an article titled '*Labor Covid policies an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister*', which detailed the additional cost of the Australian Labor Party's COVID-19 pandemic policies.
- The financial impact of Labor's policies were initially attributed (in the print version of the article) to the Department of Finance (Attachment A).
 - *Note*: *The Australian* removed this attribution from the online article around mid-morning on 9 February 2022.

Key points

- Finance costs a range of policies at the request of the Government based on, and only on, the assumptions provided by the Government.
- Costings are undertaken to inform the policy deliberations of the Government.
 - Some costed policies result in decisions that appear in the Budget, and some do not.
- The table and graph initially attributed to the Finance in *The Australian* article on 9 February 2022 were not prepared or supplied by Finance.
 - *The Australian* has corrected the attribution with the table and graph removed from the online version of the article.

Background

- The Australian article 'Labor Covid policies an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister' initially referenced the Department of Finance as the source of costings in respect to a range of opposition policies.
- When costing proposals, the Department of Finance prepares them in accordance with the *Charter of Budget Honesty Policy Costing Guidelines*.
- The detail of all costings provided to the Government are considered 'PROTECTED-Cabinet' as they are used as a part of the policy deliberation process.
- The Secretary has previously responded to questions at Senate Estimates (Budget estimates May 2018) as to whether the Department of Finance costs Labor Party policies (<u>Attachment A</u> refers).

Date:

Cleared by (SES): Amanda Lee S 22

Group/Branch: Budget and Financial Reporting/Budget Analysis and Policy

Contact Officer: Elicia Rudnicki
Telephone No: 6215 3629
Consultation: Nil

Last Printed 8/03/2022 2:29 PM

Removed 3 pages of media articles

From: BFR Executive Team

To: S 22 BFR Executive Team

Cc: Lee, Amanda; Rudnicki, Elicia; § 22 ExpenditureTrends

Subject: RE: DUE: 5pm WED 9/02 - For Clearance - Secretary Only Factsheet - Costing Non-Government Policies

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 3:03:48 PM

Attachments: image001.jpg

Duplicate of Document 12

SEC=OFFICIAL

His 22

Cath has cleared this with edits and requests for an Attachment (which is Hansard excerpt from May 2018) as the Secretary in that estimates had previously responded to questions as to whether the Department costs Labor policies.

Thank you,

s 22



s 22 | Executive Officer to

Cath Patterson

Deputy Secretary of Budget and Financial Reporting

Department of Finance

A: One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603



From: s 22

To: BFR Executive Team; Secretary - Executive

Cc: Lee, Amanda; Rudnicki, Elicia; § 22 ; ExpenditureTrends

Subject: Secretary Only Factsheet - Costing Non-Government Policies [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Date: Wednesday, 9 February 2022 4:25:45 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.jpg</u>

image001.jpg Costing Opposition Proposals - Final.docx

SEC=OFFICIAL

Hi Secretary Exec Team and BFR Exec Team,

Please find attached the cleared Secretary Only Factsheet for Costing Non-Government Policies. This has been loaded into the Executive Management Portal.

Thanks

s 22

2 | Assistant Director

Expenditure Trends Team | Budget Policy and Coordination

Budget and Financial Reporting

Department of Finance

T: s 22 @finance.gov.au

A: 1 Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

Costing Opposition Policies

Subject/Issue

The Department of Finance (Finance) costs a range of policies at the request of the Government to inform the policy deliberations of Government. Finance does not cost opposition policies.

Key facts, figures or metrics

- On 9 February 2022, *The Australian* published an article titled '*Labor Covid policies an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister*', which detailed the additional cost of the Australian Labor Party's COVID-19 pandemic policies.
- The financial impact of Labor's policies were initially attributed (in the print version of the article) to the Department of Finance (Attachment A).
 - *Note*: *The Australian* removed this attribution from the online article around mid-morning on 9 February 2022.

Key points

- Finance costs a range of policies at the request of the Government based on, and only on, the assumptions provided by the Government.
- Costings are undertaken to inform the policy deliberations of the Government.
 - Some costed policies result in decisions that appear in the Budget, and some do not.
- The table and graph initially attributed to the Finance in *The Australian* article on 9 February 2022 were not prepared or supplied by Finance.
 - *The Australian* has corrected the attribution with the table and graph removed from the online version of the article.

1

Background

- The Australian article 'Labor Covid policies an extra \$81bn hit: Finance Minister' initially referenced the Department of Finance as the source of costings in respect to a range of opposition policies.
- When costing proposals, the Department of Finance prepares them in accordance with the *Charter of Budget Honesty Policy Costing Guidelines*.
- The detail of all costings provided to the Government are considered 'PROTECTED-Cabinet' as they are used as a part of the policy deliberation process.
- The Secretary has previously responded to questions at Senate Estimates (Budget estimates May 2018) as to whether the Department of Finance costs Labor Party policies (<u>Attachment Brefers</u>).

Date:

Cleared by (SES): Amanda Lee S 22

Group/Branch: Budget and Financial Reporting/Budget Analysis and Policy

Contact Officer: Elicia Rudnicki Telephone No: 6215 3629

Consultation: Nil

Last Printed 8/03/2022 2:33 PM