



Ideas for the Try, Test and Learn Fund

You may have noticed that we have started posting summaries of ideas that aim to prevent people at risk of long-term welfare dependence from ending up in that situation. If you have an idea, please submit it to the Department of Social Services' (DSS) [Engage website](#) as soon as you can. Submitting your idea early will allow others to get in touch if they want to collaborate. It will also give you an opportunity to modify your idea or submit another if your first idea is ineligible. Anyone who thinks they have the knowledge or experience to improve an idea can contact the idea submitter directly to propose collaboration. If contact details are not provided, let us know. We will facilitate genuine requests for collaboration. Remember, you are able to submit or resubmit ideas up to 24 February. [View ideas here.](#)

Expressions of Interest open for Policy Hack

To further encourage collaboration and ideas sharing between experts with a wide range of experience, we are holding a Policy Hack in Melbourne on **10 February 2017**. This full, one-day event will provide you with opportunities to work alongside others to draft innovative policy ideas that could be further developed under the Try, Test and Learn Fund.

Participants will work in small groups and workshop possible solutions with the aid of others who have relevant expertise on each group.

We will limit the number of participants to help ensure a productive Hack, and will be selecting attendees on the basis of their knowledge of or interest in our initial priority groups. That is why we are [seeking Expressions of Interest](#) (EOI) for Hack attendance from representatives of not-for-profit organisations, academia, business and government as well as interested individuals. We are also keen to hear from people with experience in program design and/or service delivery.

We understand that not everyone interested in submitting ideas to the Fund will be able to

be part of the Hack, or will want to attend. If you wish to submit ideas to the Fund, you do **not** need to participate in the Hack.

Other ways to contribute

If you want to discuss the ideas already published on DSS Engage, the barriers faced by people in the priority groups, or what you think works to support people in these circumstances, then come and join the discussion on [DSS Engage](#).

Data access

A de-identified subset of Priority Investment Approach data will be available to eligible stakeholders over the next six months. The first stage is through a password protected online research gateway, allowing researchers to access the data remotely. This will initially enable Australian Government researchers, and then other accredited researchers, to analyse the data in a Secure Unified Research Environment. Strict security and confidentiality protocols will apply. This site will be managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The second data access project is expected to open from late February 2017. This will be a much simpler process, providing public access to aggregate data and enabling manipulation of that data using TableBuilder—a simple tool that allows users to put variables together with point-and-click technology.

By the middle of 2017 we will have a more sophisticated set of unit record data that is a synthetic version of the true data. This will allow researchers to do more analytical work outside of the secure data environment but not the sort of detailed analysis that requires access to the true dataset.

We will let you know more details about accessing this data as it becomes available; information will also be provided at www.dss.gov.au.

Until the next update, please feel free to distribute this newsletter to your networks, and encourage them to sign up for updates [here](#). You can also contact us at InvestmentApproach@dss.gov.au.