



Closing date for ideas submissions: 24 February

Now that the holiday season is behind us, we hope that you, like us, have an eye on the closing date for ideas submissions for this first tranche of the Try, Test and Learn Fund: 24 February.

Over the last week we saw an increase in the number and range of ideas coming through. If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to get your idea in as soon as possible.

Submitting your idea early allows you time to modify it or submit another if your first idea is ineligible. We do not publish ideas on [DSS Engage](#) unless they are eligible according to the criteria found in the [Try, Test and Learn Fund Handbook](#). We urge you to read those criteria closely.

Here's one tip that may help you to ensure your idea is found eligible:

What makes an idea innovative? Will you fund an existing or previous program? How do I know if my idea provides new or useful policy evidence?

A new or innovative idea may outline an initiative that has not been rigorously trialled before in Australia, or it may be a reinvention of a former or existing program. We are interested in funding ideas that could provide new and useful policy evidence for Government. If your idea is a reinvention of an existing or previous program it must offer a significant point of difference to the original program. Also consider how delivery and evaluation of your idea might provide new evidence and what hypothesis it would test. Providing new evidence could include testing the impact of innovations on the processes or technologies used, the groups accessing the service, the location of the service, or a combination of these things.

If your idea is found to be ineligible, we will provide you feedback via email. Based on this feedback, we encourage you to address any issues and resubmit.

Submitting early also allows time for others to get in touch with you if they are interested in collaborating. Those who want to collaborate or think they have the knowledge or experience to improve an idea can contact the idea submitter directly if contact details are provided. If contact details are not provided, we can make contact - we will facilitate only genuine requests for collaboration. If you want to see what ideas have been found eligible to date, [view ideas here](#).

Other ways to contribute – discuss ideas

If you'd like to contribute to the discussion of issues and barriers experienced by people in the priority groups, tell others what you think works to support people in these circumstances, or

comment on the ideas published on DSS Engage to date, come join the discussion on [DSS Engage](#).

Future tranches

The Try, Test and Learn Fund is expected to open for ideas submission several times over the next few years, allowing organisations and individuals additional opportunities to submit proposals. We will keep you updated on any future tranches through this newsletter. Information will also be updated on the [Department of Social Services website](#).

Next newsletter

We expect to send you another update by the end of next week. The next newsletter will include a wrap-up of the [Try, Test and Learn Fund Policy Hack](#), and some information on the post-ideas phase of the Fund, specifically co-design. If there is anything in particular that you would like us to cover in this newsletter, let us know at InvestmentApproach@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](#).