



Try, Test and Learn Fund

Carer Achievement Pathway

Using insights from the Priority Investment Approach, Try, Test and Learn Fund is trialling new and innovative approaches to assist groups of people at risk of long-term welfare dependence.

The Try, Test and Learn Fund will help achieve the objectives of welfare reform — that is, to develop a modern welfare system that increases the capacity of individuals, reduces the risk of welfare dependency and maintains a strong welfare safety net.

What does the evidence tell us?

- More than 60 per cent of young carers have not studied beyond high school.
- On average, current young carers are expected to be on income support in 43 years over their lifetime.
- If nothing changes, almost 1,800 current young carers will remain on income support for the rest of their lives.

What was *Carer Achievement Pathway*?

A carer coordinator worked with young carers to help them identify and pursue career aspirations and develop action plans for the future. The coordinator helped carers identify the support services they needed, such as counselling or respite care and access those services.

An online portal was developed to facilitate access to services. During development the project worked with carers to identify the sorts of services they need and how to best access them.

What were we trying to achieve?

We were trying to harness the expertise of others to help young carers develop their careers and access the support they need.

How was this initiative new and innovative?

Combining both a carer coordinator and a new online portal that complemented Carer Gateway to provide more extensive, multi-channel support than existing programs. The development phase of the project was designed to identified new and innovative ways to help young carers meet their needs.

Fast facts

Note: This project has ended.

Priority group: Young carers

Target participant number: 200
(Actual number: 42)

Location: Sydney

Trial period: 28 months

Total funding: \$740,000

Co-designers: Carers Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, Northside Community Forum, Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, and representatives from the Tranche 1 Policy Hack

Service providers: Carers NSW (subcontracting University of Wollongong)

Potential future saving: The purpose of these initiatives is to test whether an intervention works to reduce long-term reliance on welfare. If around 21 per cent (9) of participants move off income support because of this project, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs of the project.

Note: Due to changes in circumstances, adjustments were made to target participant numbers and total funding.